Shoreline

Vol. 21 • January 2015
For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

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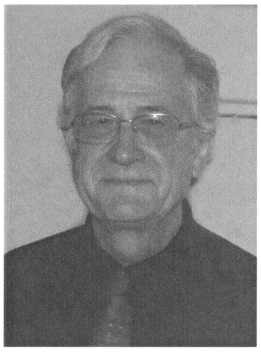
In a Word

By Dr. G. Ray Thompson



Dr. G. Ray Thompson

There has been no slowing down this semester as we continue on with our diminished but dedicated staff. The articles in this issue of *Shoreline* are very heavily Civil War era in subject matter. Although we had hoped to honor the end of the War of 1812, that simply did not happen. Instead, we focus on the social, cultural and military actions of the mid-19th century, including a sampling of articles on Civil War individuals.

The thoughtfully-researched essays of Mark Purnell, Gil Kaufman and Sue Ellen Townsend inform us of their ancestors' service for the Blue *or* Gray during the troubled period of the Civil War and remind us that that conflict has not been forgotten. Our gallery exhibit on "Delmarvans in the Civil War" has been very popular with students and non-students alike and has spawned a number of articles. Interns Elora Amtower, Alysha Allen and Kendra Pain have crafted articles that will pull at the heartstrings of readers. Women's lives, their activities and loneliness on Delmarva during the troubled mid-century era are viewed through the many-prismed lens of poetry and medicine. Vaughn Baker's essay on his maritime ancestor shows us that Delmarva was anything but isolated, while Tom Wimbrow challenges us to look back at a simpler – and poorer – time in a Delmarva village. From our archives, we are showcasing the rich South Dorchester Folk Museum collection. As the national commemorations of the War of 1812 and the Civil War wind down, we are reminded of the many young Americans in those conflicts who gave up their livelihoods and often their lives for the type of society they believed in.

As always, keep us on your calendar, noting our spring events and exhibits and our fundraiser, this year at historic Bolton at nearby Whitehaven. Our fundraiser also calls to mind naming possibilities for various Nabb Center rooms and galleries. If you are so inclined to commemorate your family's life here on the Shore, please consider sponsoring a room, whether it be the classroom or one of our other unnamed rooms. We are doing our best to preserve Delmarva's rich heritage for future generations.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future. Until then, please have a very Merry Christmas and a restful and peaceful New Year.

Submissions

The Nabb Research Center is always interested in articles on the history, culture or heritage of the Delmarva region. If you or anyone you know is interested in writing for *Shoreline*, please send material, proposals, suggestions or comments to the attention of the "Newsletter Editor" as follows:

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Salisbury, MD 21801-6860

Or by email to rcdhac@salisbury.edu. Please include the words "Newsletter Editor" in the subject line.

Hours & Closings

READING ROOM HOURS:
Monday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

CLOSINGS:
January 19

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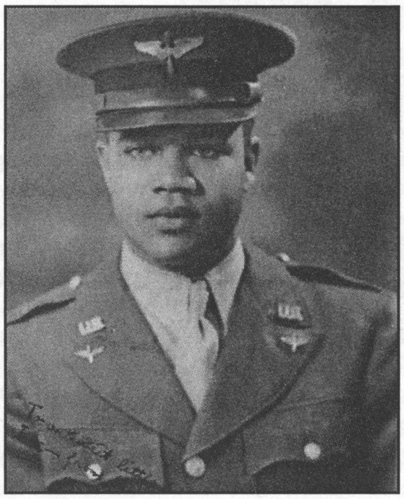

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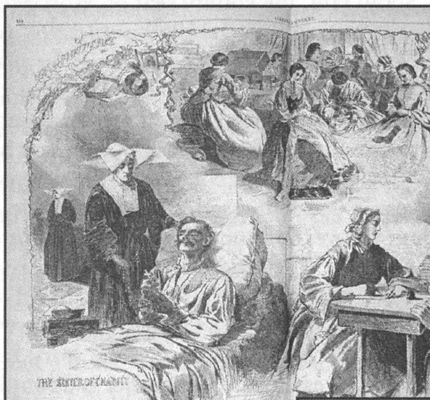
Purnells Follow Their Call …
from the Eastern Shore of Maryland



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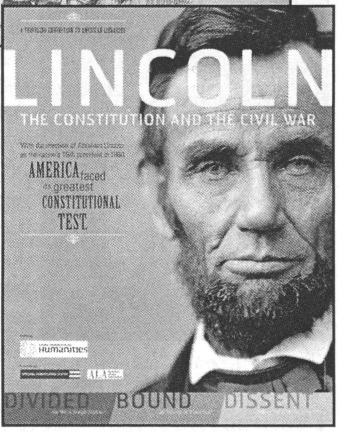
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Upcoming Events and Exhibits

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This issue and back issues of *Shoreline* may be purchased for $15 each. Please contact us at 410-543-6312 or by email at rcdhac@salisbury.edu for details.

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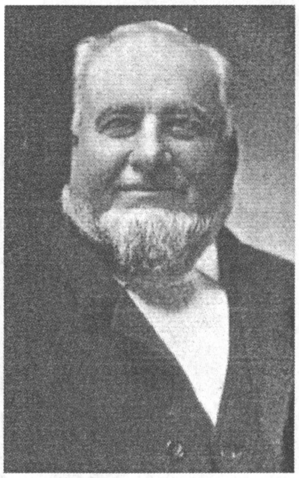
Captain Thomas Albertson Scott of Worcester County, Maryland

By Vaughn Baker

Several years ago I became fascinated by the activities of early Virginians and Marylanders in New England as crew on the first New England landings, fur trappers in the Canada Company, logistic providers for the New Hampshire Company and the early underwater divers who built foundations for lighthouses. That connection continued in the 19th century. This story is about the Scott connection between Snow Hill, MD, and New London, CT, in the late 1800s.

I was fortunate to have family information about my ancestor Captain James "Jimmy" Scott, born in 1822 and best known as the founder and operator of Scott's Ocean House on Assateague Island in Worcester County, MD. The Scott family migrated in the 1600s from the Eastern Shore of Virginia up the Pocomoke River into Maryland and was on the barrier island Assateague in old Somerset County (later Worcester) by 1669. The Scotts built a home at Scott's Landing, about six and a half miles southeast of Snow Hill, the county seat of Worcester County. Ocean House, operating from 1869 until 1894, was a small summer hotel of about 20 rooms best known for seafood and frequented by the major politicians of the day, who summered there. Captain Jimmy took ill while at Assateague and was taken by boat to Chincoteague to visit a doctor, but he expired before they docked. His will confirmed the type of clients he had, because it was witnessed by two men, one of whom would become a governor and the other a senator of Maryland. My grandmother worked at the Ocean House as a girl and told stories to her children that were passed on to me. One story I especially remember is about her grandfather Captain Jimmy showing her gold that he had recovered from ships floundering on the beaches of Assateague. Captain Jimmy's first wife Susan (Hoffman) was from a New York family who disinherited her for marrying Captain Jimmy. She died in childbirth and was buried on Assateague. I never understood the New York connection until I learned more about Jimmy's brother Thomas Scott.



Thomas Alberton Scott

Thomas Albertson Scott (1830-1907)

There were several casual family mentions over the years about James Scott's brother Captain Thomas Scott. My father's account was the most specific, describing him as a very early diver who worked on the Brooklyn Bridge and saved a boatload of people near New York. A coincidental discovery confirmed this story. About three decades ago, on a trip through New England with my family, I spotted a memorial stone at the United States Coast Guard Academy dedicated to a Thomas Scott who was a diver. I made a mental note to come back and investigate. The memorial prompted me to research the engineering and underwater work involved in the Brooklyn Bridge construction, but I found no mention of Thomas Scott. When I returned to Connecticut and the United States Coast Guard Academy three decades later to continue my investigation, I could find no memorial, nor did the guards know of anything fitting that description. My wife, with less interest in my quest, had been looking forward to some lobster and steered me toward the docks in New London looking for seafood. We came upon the Captain Thomas Scott Lobster Dock. Folks were standing 50 deep in the hot sun to purchase seafood to eat on tables on an old dock sandwiched between the water and Amtrak. Later, we would find much written in food and vacation magazines about this unusual restaurant. And as we waited to order our lobster rolls, a portrait of Captain Scott looked down on us; I noted a resemblance to my father. I had assumed Scott's middle name was Adam after his father, but learned it was actually Albertson, definitely not an Eastern Shore name.

The legend written on the portrait about Captain Scott mentioned that he was from Worcester County, MD. The legend also mentioned that Francis Hopkinson Smith wrote about Captain Scott. We would soon learn that Thomas A. Scott not only built the underwater base of the Race Rock Light, as well as the Statue of Liberty, but also he became a genuine American hero whose life and deeds would provide the background for a best-selling novel, a Broadway play and two motion pictures.

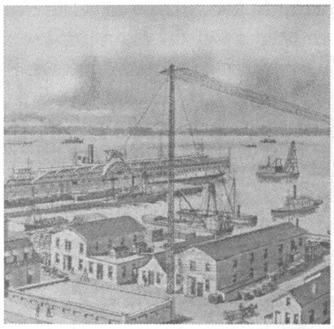
Francis Hopkinson Smith, the man who wrote about Captain Scott, was originally from Baltimore and quite a renaissance man. He was an architect, an illustrator and an author with several best sellers. Smith created a character called "Captain Joe" fashioned on the life of Captain Thomas Scott and periodically wrote about him over a 20-year period. In 1898, Smith had his second national best-selling book called *Caleb West,* Master Diver, which was fashioned on the exploits and heroism of Captain Scott and featured several characters from Worcester and Kent counties on the Eastern Shore. A stage play followed in 1900 based on the book, and a movie called *Caleb West* made in 1912 was rereleased in 1920 by Paramount Pictures as *Deep Waters.*

It initially seemed unusual to me that Smith would write such a wonderful story about an uneducated fellow from the waters of Assateague. It turns out that Smith worked with Captain Scott. An architect, Smith was awarded the government contract to construct the Race Rock Light south of Fisher's Island at the entrance to Long Island Sound. This lighthouse was considered an engineering feat and marvel for 1877. Captain Thomas Scott was construction foreman and, according to Smith, an engineering genius. Scott built warehouses and offices for the project in New London. The T.A. Scott Company became the second largest of its kind on the East Coast until it merged with the largest.

In addition to Race Rock Light, Smith and Scott worked together on several jobs. The most famous was to construct the base and foundation for the Statue of Liberty. In 1872, Scott used his tug for the Howell Torpedo trials performed for the Navy at Sag Harbor, Long Island. A barge he was towing blew up in New London Harbor in Connecticut, killing several of his men; it was recorded as the largest disaster to occur there.

In 1908, the year after Scott's death, Smith wrote the book *Captain Thomas Scott, Master Diver, One Who Was Not Afraid, and Who Spoke the Truth.* Those who had read Smith's earlier work now knew about whom Smith had been writing for two decades. In the book, Smith started with the humble beginnings of Thomas Scott, who at 15 took his own boat and began selling cords of wood to the homes along the bays in Worcester County in exchange for oysters and clams. He described Scott at 23:

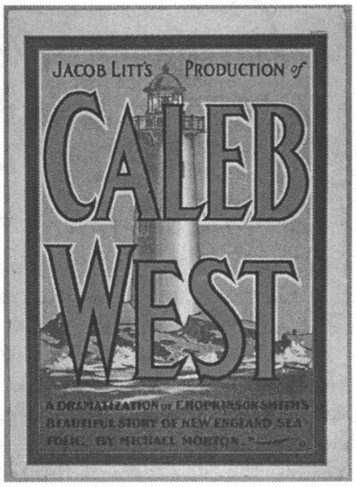
> Some years later a straight, clear-eyed young fellow, with a chest of iron – arms like cant hooks and thighs lashed with whip-cord and steel, shipped as common sailor aboard the schooner *John Willetts*, – Captain Wever, Master. He was seven years older than when he commanded the pudgy, but the look on his face was still the same, – the look of a man who was not afraid and who spoke the truth.



Sag Horbor

By the time he was 25, according to Smith, Thomas was married and part-owner of the schooner *Thomas Nelson*. The couple moved to New Jersey near Fort Lee, where a few years later he was asked to remove the cargo from a sunken ship in the Hudson River. This led to a career in underwater salvage. In 1869, it was Thomas Scott who completely removed the ship *Scotland*, a menace to shipping, off of Sandy Hook. His personal share of the fee was $11,000 for merchandise salvaged.

Smith's biography confirmed the story told years earlier by my father about Thomas Scott saving a boatload of passengers. It took place in January 1870 when a paddlewheel ferryboat with hundreds of men, women and children aboard got lodged in the ice as it travelled from Hoboken, NJ, to New York. As the ferry tried to free herself, a passing tug hit some ice and careened into the ferry's side, leaving a gash at the water line. Thomas Scott was captain of another passing tug, the *Reliance*, which was slowly making its way north up the Hudson to Weehawken. Scott pulled his tug alongside the ferry and jumped on board. First, he intimidated some of the panicked male passengers to keep them from jumping overboard. He confronted one man, tore off his life preserver and backed the entire crowd to starboard to help raise part of the gash out of the water. Then, Scott went to the engine room and stuffed mattresses and coats into the gash. Finally, he used his own body to plug the remainder of the hole. Rescuers thought he was dead when a tug finally brought the ferry into dock. Scott's exposed arm and shoulder had been shredded by the ice, and they took five weeks to heal. When his company, owner of the tub *Reliance*, tried to get salvage payment from the ferry company, the ferry company refused payment. The owner of the *Reliance* asked Scott to sign an affidavit so they could start legal proceedings, but he refused. Scott said he did it to save the women and their babies, not to salvage the ship. Scott then quit and responded to an advertisement for help on the Race Rock Light project. That is where he met Francis Hopkinson Smith.


JACOB LITT'S PRODUCTION of
CALEB WEST
A DRAMATIZATION OF F. HOPKINSON SMITH'S BEAUTIFUL STORY OF NEW ENGLAND SEA FOLK. BY MICHAEL MORTON.

Smith finished his book about Scott by writing:

> In the thirty-seven years I knew and loved him, he has always been, and will always be, to those who had his confidence, one of nature's noblemen – brave, modest capable and tenderhearted. The record of his life must be of value to his fellow countrymen. Nor can I think of any other higher tribute to pay him than to repeat the refrain … one who was not afraid and spoke the truth, a description of Tommy Scott even at age 15.

Smith gave multiple examples of how Scott, a man with no formal education, would get creative and devise a new approach or procedure to overcome problems everyone else had said were impossible. An interesting example was the challenge to recover a heavy steam locomotive that had fallen into a stream and was encased in mud under 30 feet of water. It was a situation thought impossible, but not only did Scott recover the locomotive, he did it overnight and put it back onto the tracks from which it had fallen.

Scott started the T.A. Scott Salvage Company in 1903. Scott's son Thomas A. Scott Jr. led the company after his father's death. The company salvaged more than 500 ships and so much cargo from World Wars I and II that President Harry Truman awarded the son the Medal of Merit.

If the reader is interested in the engineering challenges in building underwater foundations such as at Race Rock Light, read *Caleb Smith, a Master Diver* by Francis Hopkinson Smith. For more on Thomas Scott, see Smith's 1908 book, *Thomas Scott, Master Diver.* The records of the T.A. Scott Company are available at the library at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut.

Author's Note: I could not find the number of folks on the ferry that day, but I did find a mention that an amazing number of 35 million people took the ferry that year. So we can assume there were a lot of people on board. Also, the mothers must have been taking babies to work. Scott's first words when they revived him were something like … "Wuz any of them babies hurt?"

Note: Special thanks to history professor Jamin Wells, Ph.D., who organized a blog for discussing ships and salvage. It was his research that helped with much of this information.

Vaughn Baker, past chair of the Nabb Center board, has been researching his Baker and allied families for many years, and has conducted extensive research on the connections among the early settlers of the area.

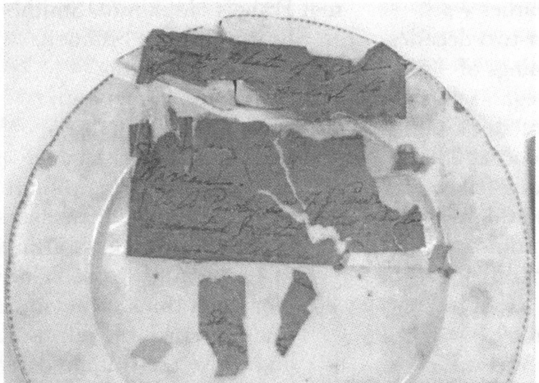
Spotlight on Collections

Past in the Present, Three-dimensional Memories

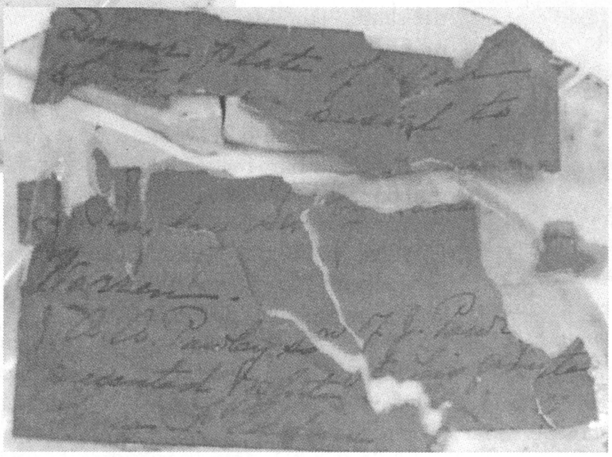
by Leslie Van Veen McRoberts, Nabb Research Center Access Archivist

Many of you know that the Nabb Research Center has an extensive artifact collection. We house over 4,500 artifacts that visually tell the stories of the Delmarva Peninsula's history and culture. Our artifacts – that include items such as arrowheads, clothing, housewares, military regalia, weapons, tools and machines – date from the prehistoric period through the mid-20th century and illustrate the richness of our history.

Most of our fascinating items have come from donors like you. They tell your family's history through your grandmother's wedding dress, your great-uncle's stuffed toy or the first electric lamp that electrified a home in the city of Salisbury. These objects resonate with us. Not only do they tell a specific story about your family and the region, but they bring back memories of when our fathers went marching off to war and when we sat in the kitchen and watched our mothers prepare a Thanksgiving feast.



Front of plate with note



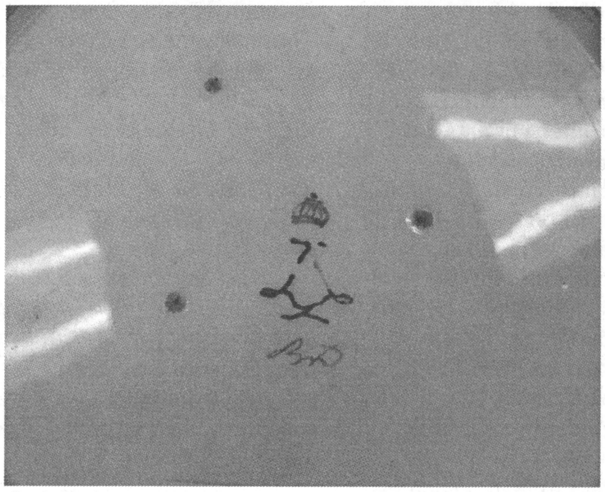
Front of plate with note (detail)

Today, we celebrate our history and our memories as we tell the stories in our exhibits and in the classroom at Salisbury University. Some of our stories are epic and some are small, but they all have meaning. Sometimes the donor helps us tell the story with the information that has been passed down through the generations; other times we must seek it out.

Earlier this year, Caroline Carrillo donated artifacts and manuscript material from the Bates family of Snow Hill; included in the donation was a seemingly ordinary plate. The plate, ivory in color, is embellished with a hand-painted gold edging around the lip; it is broken on the top and has an aged note affixed to the face. Little did we know, this broken plate has more significance than we realized at first glance. Dr. Ray Thompson and a volunteer transcribed the note while a second volunteer entered it into our collections catalog software. The note documents the plate's extensive history. It reads:

> "Dinner plate of General Lafayette
> presented to J. Pawley Sr.
> by ____ Warren. J.A.A. Pawley, son.
> Presented plate of J. Pawley Sr.
> Grace F. Eldnis to his grandchildren."

We cannot confirm or deny the accuracy of the claim, but we certainly are intrigued. General Lafayette, better known as the Marquis de Lafayette, was a French nobleman who fought in the American Revolution between 1777 and 1781. He was a close friend of George Washington. After the Revolution, he went home to France. He returned to the United States in 1824 and went on an extensive, multi-state tour. He spoke to many groups in various places along the way and was honored as a hero. It is certainly possible that the provenance of the plate, as stated on the note, is correct and would have dated from this triumphant tour.



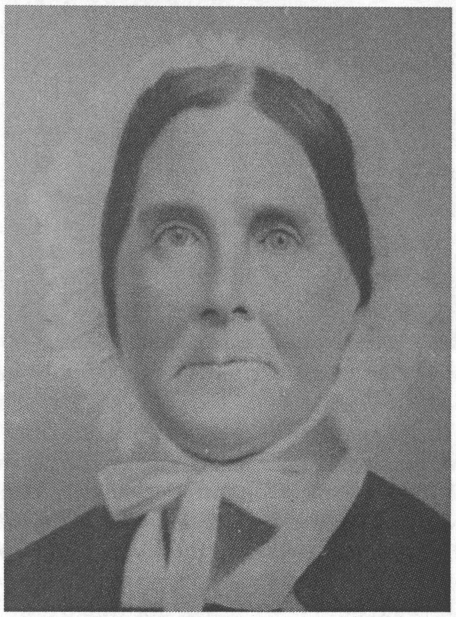
Back of plate

Unfortunately, little has been uncovered about the Pawleys or Mr. Eldnis. Perhaps sharing this information with our readers will bring to light information about these other participants in our country's history. If you have information about either of these folks, or if your family has passed down other stories about Lafayette's travels that might shed light on this artifact, we'd love to hear about it. ◆

Searching for Cures in the Sky: Sickness Hysteria on the 19th-Century Eastern Shore

By Alysha Allen

Death for 19th-century Marylanders was as commonplace in the home as the Farmer's Almanac and the Bible. Recently, we discovered in several family letters at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center a comprehensive reflection of the everyday ailments that afflicted 19th-century Eastern Shore residents, including letters of Susan Porter Lankford and her sister Mary Jane Guillet of Somerset County, Catherine Steele Ray of Cambridge, and Samuel Cator of Dorchester County. Infections resulting in death remained nearly inescapable for these individuals even as some vacated the Eastern Shore and explored the country's frontiers, from Missouri to California, and the sultry climate of New Orleans. These letters not only immortalize the tragedy of losing countless family members, but also, expose the sickness hysteria that plagued the area more than the epidemic of illness itself.

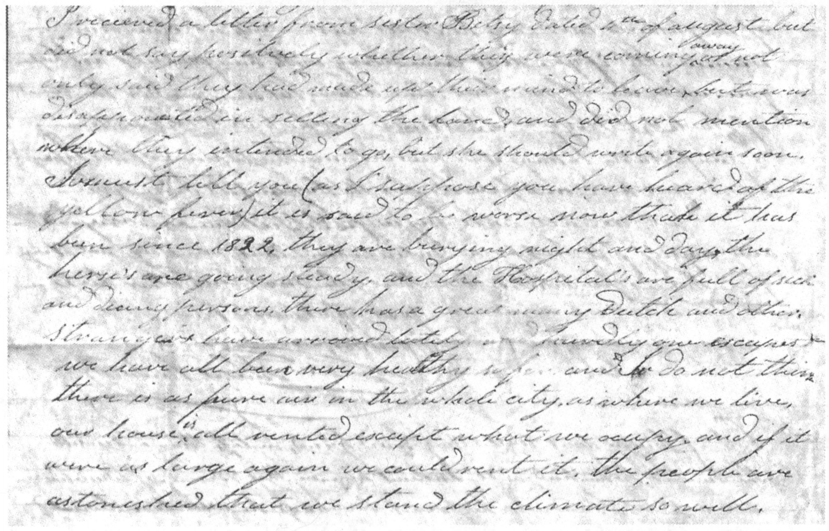


Susan Lankford

Through their letters to one another emerge depictions of illness and death so pervasive it makes our society appear very healthy. Yet, sickness inevitably surrounds us even today. We find its lurking presence in the various and constant reminders to obtain a flu shot every winter season, to vigorously wash our hands every time we use the bathroom and before the handling of food, and, lest we forget, to take our daily vitamins. Many of today's preventive measures are present-day reminders of the ubiquitous illness and death hysteria in the pre-Civil War period through late-19th century America. Indeed, whether it was dropsy of the bowels or a carbuncle on one's groin, death and disease were obsessive terrors that plagued the landscape of the nation, even more so than they do today.

Lankford and Guillet's numerous letters, written from 1838 to 1874, frequently expressed their concerns about the ill-health of their family members. Guillet wrote grievously that, "There is nothing but trouble and sorrow for us as long as we stay on this earth … for every day reminds me of the uncertainty of life, and the certainty of death." Among these letters, the sentiment felt by these sisters captures the nation's heart-rending despair for those lost to the indiscriminate ravages of disease during this period. Their letters anticipate the "blessed hope" that "after having traveled through this wilderness of sorrow and affliction … we shall meet our dear friends that have gone before us in a brighter and better world than this where parting will be no more." Certainly, when nation-wide illnesses prevailed with no opportunity for retreat to a countryside villa, the only panacea available was the hope of a peaceful afterlife.

In an 1837 letter to her sister, Susan Lankford, Guillet, who was living in New Orleans at the time, observed the preeminence of the yellow fever in that city "worse now that it has been since 1822." She described the horrors of the fever in morbid detail, writing, "They are burying night and day, the hearse's are going steady, and the hospitals are full of sick and dieing[sic] persons." Yellow fever, also known as the black vomit, was eponymously named for the jaundiced color its victims' skin turned. Several epidemics located mostly in the South, particularly New Orleans and Memphis, left thousands dead in the years 1853 and 1878, respectively. The Lankford and Guillet families battled contagious diseases like the yellow fever that destroyed lives with merciless ferocity, as did untold numbers of other families throughout the country.



I received a letter from sister Betsy dated 4th of august but
did not say positively whether they were coming away or not
only said they had made up their mind to leave, but was
disappointed in selling the land and did not mention
where they intended to go, but she should write again soon.
I must tell you (as I suppose you have heard of the
yellow fever) it is said to be worse now than it has
been since 1822, they are burying night and day, the
hearse's are going steady, and the Hospital's are full of sick
and dieing persons. there has a great many Dutch and other
strangers have arrived lately [illegible] hardly one escapes &
we have all been very healthy so far and we do not think
there is as pure air in the whole city, as where we live,
our house is all rented except what we occupy, and if it
were as large again we could rent it, the people are
astonished that we stand the climate so well.

Portion of letter from Mary Jane Guillet to her sister Susan Lankford: "hospitals are full of sick and dieing persons"

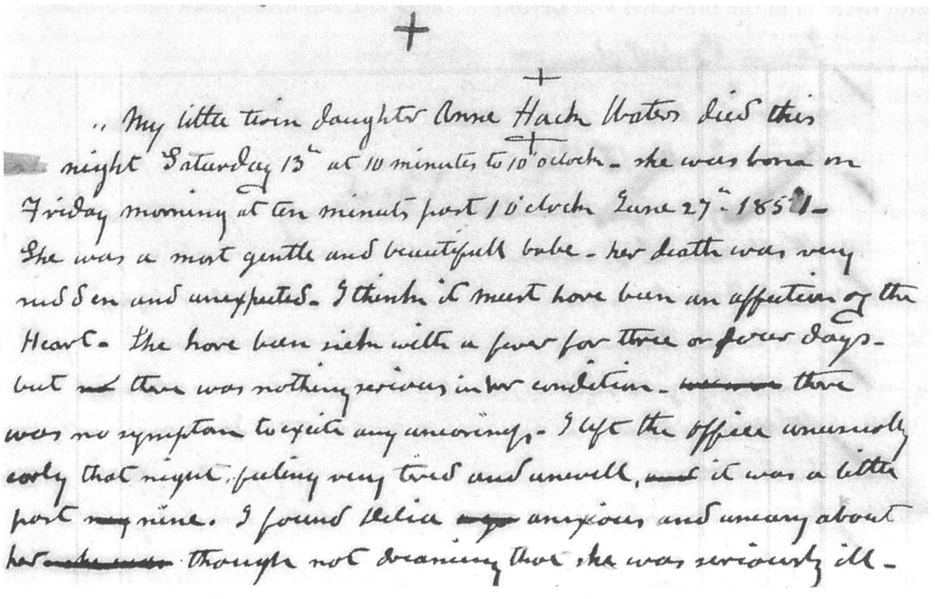
Having moved to Carroll County, MO, from New Orleans, Guillet wrote in 1845 that "in August the sickness set in which lasted until October though it was not so fatal as last year." Elsewhere on the lower Eastern Shore, residents feared the worst from a yellow fever epidemic. In letters addressed to his sister Molly from February to June 1853, Samuel Cator, living in St. Thomas in the Caribbean, wrote that the yellow fever primarily remained "confind[sic] to the shipping in the

Mary Jane Guillet

harbor," but after one month "rage[d]" and "prevailed to a powerful extent." By August the detrimental effects of the plague had inflicted heavy blows to the success of Cator's farm, considerably decimated his workforce and contributed to irreparable financial ruin. In February 1854, Cator wrote again to his sister in Dorchester County that "Chorlora [cholera] broke out in this Island" and in only two months caused the deaths of nearly 2,000 of the island's inhabitants, including his one-year old infant who died after one week of illness. It is no wonder that he wrote that his house had been turned into a hospital.

Cholera infiltrated several other parts of the country. In 1832, Somerset County's Village Herald reported its sudden spread from New York and other cities on the East Coast to Canada and then its sweep across the Atlantic Ocean to Ireland and Liverpool. Unlike the yellow fever, cholera did not remain confined to one location and was most noted for turning the body black hours after death. In one 1854 Boston police record, Edward Savage recalled, "In some instances, where life had departed but a few hours, the corpse would be so swollen, that the largest coffin would not contain it; in others the flesh would actually fall to pieces, a putrefied mass, before it could be properly laid out." Although these gruesome details may shock some, death by cholera may not have been the worst travesty for 19th-century Americans.

Besides the fear of yellow fever, cholera and death by consumption, lay the added horror of being buried alive. Due to poorly trained physicians, many individuals who were only comatose or unconscious were proclaimed dead and to the horror of many would awaken during the funeral service. As a result, premature-burial prevention practices became popular. Physicians delayed interment for a number of days and weeks and placed "crowbars and shovels in the deceased's casket" should they want to "dig their way out." Children and women, however, seem to have suffered the most severely.



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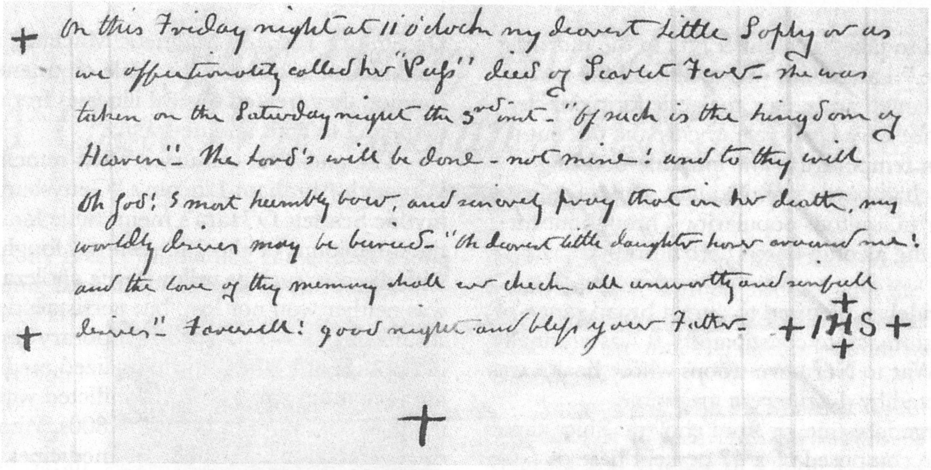
.. My little twin daughter Anne Hack Waters died this
night Saturday 13th at 10 minutes to 10 o'clock – she was born on
Friday morning at ten minutes past 10 o'clock June 27th 1851 –
She was a most gentle and beautifull babe – her death was very
sudden and unexpected – I think it must have been an affection of the
Heart – She had been sick with a fever for three or four days –
but ~~not~~ there was nothing serious in her condition – ~~[illegible]~~ there
was no symptom to excite any uneasiness – I left the office unusually
early that night, feeling very tired and unwell, ~~and~~ it was a little
past ~~my~~ nine. I found Delia ~~[illegible]~~ anxious and uneasy about
~~her [illegible]~~ though not dreaming that she was seriously ill –

Entry in Alexander Bayly's ledger noting the death of his daughter Anne

After her return to Louisiana, this time living in Washington, Guillet related in her 1867 letter that "Poor Sarah [her daughter] … could not rest day nor night … she has not walked without crutches for nearly 2 months … she was always such a sprightly child the Rheumatism is a severe complaint, especially on young." Three years earlier, Guillet wrote from Missouri that "our dear little Rosa Lee [Guillet's daughter] … has been very sick with the cholera infantum … She gets better for a few days and then takes bad spells again … I have thought several times that we should lose her." Cholera infantum, otherwise known as the "summer complaint," was a severe intestinal and diarrheal disease that afflicted children under five years of age primarily in large cities located in the middle, southern and western states. This disease would usually end fatally for the child and was thought to be caused by hot weather, contaminated city air, ingestion of poor milk or most likely a combination of all three. Often, unfortunately, the most detrimental cases of the cholera infantum offered "no other warning than a little more sleepiness of the otherwise … well child."

In March 1852, Dorchester County, MD, physician Alexander Hamilton Bayly recorded in his doctor's ledger that his one-year-old daughter Anne Hacke Waters had died without warning and very unexpectedly. He distraughtly remarked that "there was nothing serious in her condition — there was no symptom to excite any uneasiness." Anne's death was not the first nor would it be the last death to plague the Bayly family. Only one year earlier, Alexander and his wife Delia had lost their three-month-old son Harold. Following Anne, their loss continued with the death of their young daughter Sophia — fondly nicknamed Little Sophy or "Puss" — from the scarlet fever. The only form of consolation a parent could receive during such misfortunes was the hope that their child would experience none a quick and painless passing and that God would grant them eternal companionship with their kin in Heaven. Similarly, during 30 years, from 1860-1890, Emaline Leonard Jones of Allen, MD, lost nine family members, including two of her children, five grandchildren, her mother and her husband. Those children who survived past birth contended with a numerous variety of other diseases that ranged from scarlet fever, whooping cough, and infections of the lungs and intestinal tract. Women may have been the most taxed by these infections because they were expected to heal and treat the variety of diseases that afflicted



+ On this Friday night at 11 o'clock my dearest little Sophy or as we affectionately called her "Puss" died of Scarlet Fever - she was taken on the Saturday night the 3rd inst - "Of such is the kingdom of Heaven" - The Lord's will be done - not mine! and to thy will Oh God! I most humbly bow, and sincerely pray that in her death, my worldly desires may be buried - "Oh dearest little daughter hover around me! and the love of thy memory shall ever check all unworthy and sinfull

+ desires" - Farewell! good night and bless your Father - +IHS+

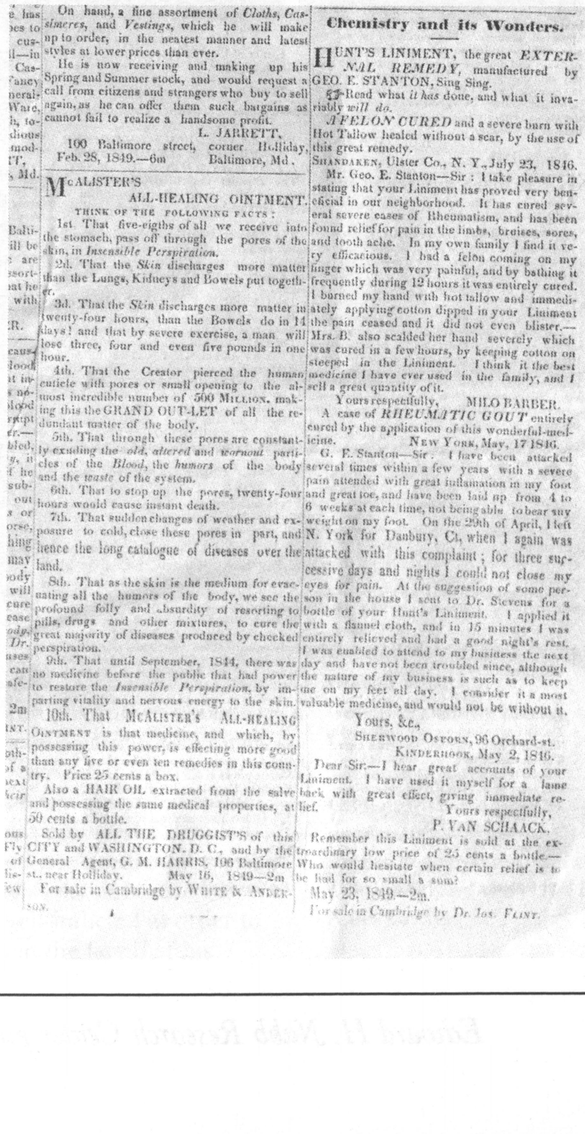
+

Entry in Bayly's ledger noting death of his daughter "Puss"

their children. In that case, if a woman failed to save her child's life, guilt would riddle the pain-stricken mother most.

Furthermore, diseased individuals in the 19th century relied more heavily upon the women in the family, especially older women "who had a reputation for skill with the sick … were expected to deal with illness in the home and to keep a stock of remedies on hand." But the most common treatment for diseases throughout the 1800s was the practice of bloodletting. Physicians believed that infection could be purged and expunged from the system when extracting fluids from the body. However, many farmers, those who could not afford a physician, or those who lived in rural areas miles away from any city, still depended on lay and folk medicine. These lay remedies were not like the prescriptions we buy from our local pharmacies that often contain an extensive list of unfamiliar and unpronounceable ingredients. Samuel Thomson's 1822 *New Guide to Health* may have inspired the immense popularity of lay medicine, while John C. Gunn's 1839 handbook, *Domestic Medicine*, also offered to its common lay-reader a simplified and demystified view of medicine and avoided any medical jargon. Thomson's and Gunn's antecedents began with John Wesley's colonial-era *Primitive Physic* and William Buchan's 1769 *Domestic Medicine* text. Likewise, Thomson's and Gunn's compendiums had not been the only "how-to" medicinal guidebooks marketed toward the "average" American before domestic medicine declined in the late 1860s.

Domestic medicine acted as a counterculture to professional medicine that sought to disseminate and democratize medical knowledge. Similarly, members of 19th-century society believed salubrious warmer climates were a palliative treatment, leading those who could afford it to travel to the South from cities in the North. Mary Jane Guillet, a Somerset native who traveled and lived in several states across the nation, often urged her sister throughout numerous instances of their correspondence to take the Southern air. During Guillet's residence in New Orleans, she often solicited Susan's company by drawing upon her concern for Susan and her family's health. The experienced traveler explicitly remarked that those in "deep decline in Baltimore … were enjoying perfect health in N.O. [New Orleans]" and boastfully claimed that her health had always been better in the west than when she had lived in New York. Even Annapolis boasted of the good health among its residents. Catharine Ray wrote affectionately to her sister Catherine Steele of the wholesome climes of Annapolis and Cambridge: "Hope when you visit this shore, your native air will prove beneficial." Specifically, residents of the Eastern Shore traveled during particular seasons of the year, such as "the last of October or first of November" when the weather was "pleasant, and generally calm and settled for crossing the Bay." As in another letter from Dorchester County, summer excursions were necessary to escape sickly seasons, such as a return of cholera, even if the town was at present healthy. Samuel Thomson's medicinal guidebook certainly influenced the ideology that heat fostered good health while the cold caused deterioration. Additionally this ideology also extended to the belief that mineral remedies dredged from the cold ground were deleterious to one's health as opposed to "life-giving" herbs that "grew toward the sun."



On hand, a fine assortment of *Cloths, Cassimeres*, and *Vestings*, which he will make up to order, in the neatest manner and latest styles at lower prices than ever.

He is now receiving and making up his Spring and Summer stock, and would request a call from citizens and strangers who buy to sell again, as he can offer them such bargains as cannot fail to realize a handsome profit.

L. JARRETT,

100 Baltimore street, corner Holliday,
Feb. 28, 1849.—6m Baltimore, Md.

McALISTER'S

ALL-HEALING OINTMENT.

THINK OF THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

1st. That five-eigths of all we receive into the stomach, pass off through the pores of the skin, in *Insensible Perspiration.*

2d. That the *Skin* discharges more matter than the Lungs, Kidneys and Bowels put together.

3d. That the *Skin* discharges more matter in twenty-four hours, than the Bowels do in 14 days! and that by severe exercise, a man will lose three, four and even five pounds in one hour.

4th. That the Creator pierced the human cuticle with pores or small opening to the almost incredible number of 500 MILLION, making this the GRAND OUT-LET of all the redundant matter of the body.

5th. That through these pores are constantly exuding the *old, altered* and *wornout* particles of the *Blood*, the *humors* of the body and the *waste* of the system.

6th. That to stop up the pores, twenty-four hours would cause instant death.

7th. That sudden changes of weather and exposure to cold, close these pores in part, and hence the long catalogue of diseases over the land.

8th. That as the skin is the medium for evacuating all the humors of the body, we see the profound folly and absurdity of resorting to pills, drugs and other mixtures, to cure the great majority of diseases produced by checked perspiration.

9th. That until September, 1844, there was no medicine before the public that had power to restore the *Insensible Perspiration*, by imparting vitality and nervous energy to the skin.

10th. That McALISTER'S ALL-HEALING OINTMENT is that medicine, and which, by possessing this power, is effecting more good than any five or even ten remedies in this country. Price 25 cents a box.

Also a HAIR OIL extracted from the salve and possessing the same medical properties, at 50 cents a bottle.

Sold by ALL THE DRUGGIST'S of this CITY and WASHINGTON, D. C., and by the General Agent, G. M. HARRIS, 106 Baltimore st., near Holliday. May 16, 1849—2m

For sale in Cambridge by WHITE & ANDERSON.

Chemistry and its Wonders.

HUNT'S LINIMENT, the great *EXTERNAL REMEDY*, manufactured by GEO. E. STANTON, Sing Sing.

☞Read what *it has* done, and what it invariably *will do.*

A FELON CURED and a severe burn with Hot Tallow healed without a scar, by the use of this great remedy.

SHANDAKEN, Ulster Co., N. Y., July 23, 1846.

Mr. Geo. E. Stanton—Sir: I take pleasure in stating that your Liniment has proved very beneficial in our neighborhood. It has cured several severe cases of Rheumatism, and has been found relief for pain in the limbs, bruises, sores, and tooth ache. In my own family I find it very efficacious. I had a felon coming on my finger which was very painful, and by bathing it frequently during 12 hours it was entirely cured. I burned my hand with hot tallow and immediately applying cotton dipped in your Liniment the pain ceased and it did not even blister.—Mrs. B. also scalded her hand severely which was cured in a few hours, by keeping cotton on steeped in the Liniment. I think it the best medicine I have ever used in the family, and I sell a great quantity of it.

Yours respectfully, MILO BARBER.

A case of *RHEUMATIC GOUT* entirely cured by the application of this wonderful medicine.

NEW YORK, May, 17 1846.

G. E. Stanton—Sir: I have been attacked several times within a few years with a severe pain attended with great inflamation in my foot and great toe, and have been laid up from 4 to 6 weeks at each time, not being able to bear my weight on my foot. On the 29th of April, I left N. York for Danbury, Ct, when I again was attacked with this complaint; for three successive days and nights I could not close my eyes for pain. At the suggestion of some person in the house I sent to Dr. Stevens for a bottle of your Hunt's Liniment. I applied it with a flannel cloth, and in 15 minutes I was entirely relieved and had a good night's rest. I was enabled to attend to my business the next day and have not been troubled since, although the nature of my business is such as to keep me on my feet all day. I consider it a most valuable medicine, and would not be without it.

Yours, &c.,
SHERWOOD OSBORN, 96 Orchard-st.

KINDERHOOK, May 2, 1846.

Dear Sir.—I hear great accounts of your Liniment. I have used it myself for a lame back with great effect, giving immediate relief.

Yours respectfully,
P. VAN SCHAACK.

Remember this Liniment is sold at the extraordinary low price of 25 cents a bottle.—Who would hesitate when certain relief is to be had for so small a sum?

May 23, 1849.—2m.

For sale in Cambridge by *Dr. Jos. Flint.*

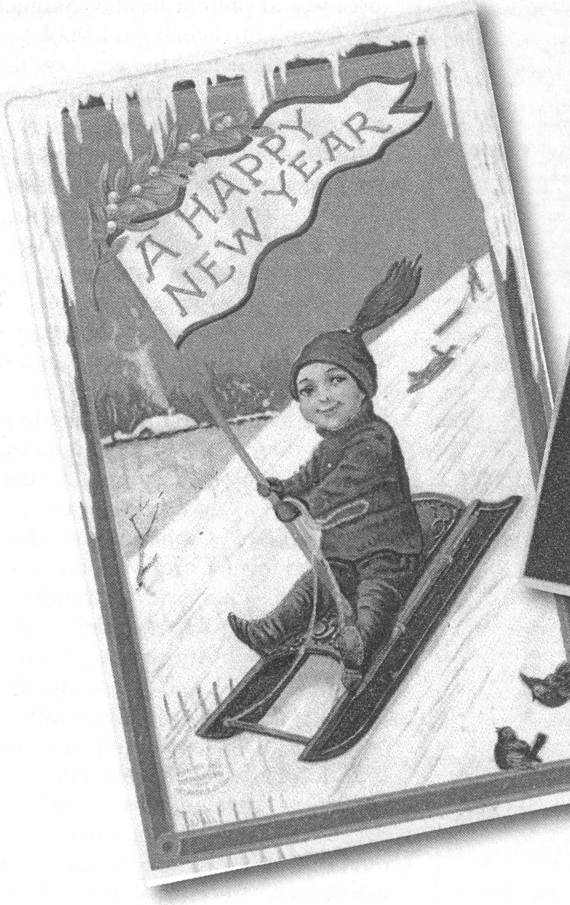
Women who lived in Maryland often used letters to exchange holistic treatment suggestions to other women for their ailing husbands or children. Among these, Guillet recommended to her sister hypophosphites of lime and soda as a "great remedy in Consumption." Catherine Ray also requested for her brother John "a keg of Jamesons Crackers … a bottle of Shampaign[sic] Branday[sic] … thro' the day stewed with spice … & an Opiate Morning & Night to enable him to set up & bear the unceasing pain he suffers all over him." A month later, John's case worsened. His emaciated "skeleton" frame and depressed spirits had "not one moments [sic] respite from pain." At this ill turn of events, Ray noted with perturbation the "120 drops of

Laudenum[sic]" he had to take "at night & fifty in the morning to enable him to endure." Laudanum was used until the early 20th century to treat a cough and as an analgesic, or painkiller. Likewise, brandy may not have been able to cure the flu, but it assuredly eased the pain temporarily. The immune-boosting properties in wine and champagne's antioxidant content were also the reason for their ubiquitous popularity. Throughout the country, there was also the alcohol-based herbal brew known as bitters.

Bitters had been widely advertised to cure a broad range of illnesses from an upset stomach to constipation. It was originally given during the Civil War to Northern troops whose health was most deleteriously afflicted by dysentery, a gruesome inflammation of the large intestine, or from cholera. Since these herbal concoctions were composed of a 47 percent base of alcohol, it is not surprising that many people became addicted to the toxic dram, even to the extent that after the war Dr. J. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters were sold as shots in bars under the characteristic sobriquet of the "Soldier's Safeguard." Other remedies such as cod liver oil were used for tuberculosis and given to children plagued by rickets. Vegetable and herbal compounds, such as the sarsaparilla compound fluid extract that claimed to cure mental illnesses, were advertised extensively. Additionally, advertisements for peculiar antidotes such as Dr. Smith's Torpedo Magnetic Machine, antalgic liniments for rheumatism and face-aches, pile ointment, and worm syrup claimed they treated several illnesses from the bilious fever and dyspepsia to gout and neuralgia.

The mid-19th century is often remembered for the Civil War, with Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" and the mythic Scarlett O'Hara's memorable family maladies. However, the inhabitants of the 19th-century fought another war – one with diseases such as yellow fever, cholera and dysentery – that was neither won nor lost, but persists indefinitely with new strains of illnesses. The contemporary resurgence to be "natural" in opposition to the institutionalized medical field parallels homeopathic practices that conflicted with the developing medical profession in the mid-1800s. We may not have the same diseases or even take the same medicines, yet there does not seem to be much separating us from our 19th-century ancestors and our similar fixation with drugs and death. Surely, history shows us that the past lives long into the present.

Alysha Allen is a senior at Salisbury University majoring in English literature and minoring in gender studies. She interned at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center during the spring and fall 2014 semesters. Her interests are in literature and history from the 18th and the 19th century.



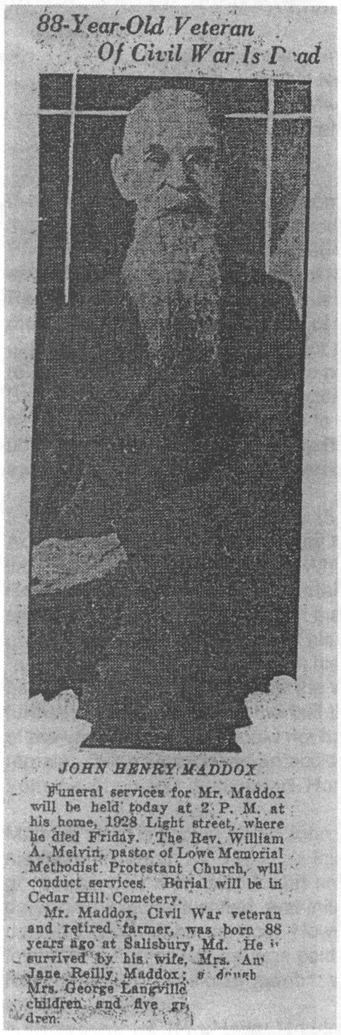
We are always
cheerful
Our thoughts
ar. high
We never
disdain
To make a
sigh.
Clivette.

John Henry Maddox –
A Civil War Veteran With a Mystery

by John Gilbert Kaufman

John Henry Maddox, my great grandfather, came from a long line of Maddoxes going back to the arrival of Alexander in Nassawadox, VA, in 1635 and his son Lazarus, who moved to the Salisbury region of Maryland around 1660. John Henry (1836-1924) was the son of Benjamin and Sarah Maddox and lived somewhere in the same area.

In 1864, three years after the start of the Civil War, John Henry Maddox enlisted in the United States Army of the North at Princess Anne, MD, on April 14, 1864. He was a private assigned to Company B of the 1st Regiment of the Maryland Eastern Shore Infantry, later to Company F of the 11th Regiment of the Maryland Volunteer Infantry. He was assigned to duty at creek mouths along the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, probably in the vicinity of towns such as Crisfield, to watch for smugglers bringing ashore armaments for rebels on Delmarva or those who might be smuggling arms to rebel groups near Baltimore. Sentiments were broadly divided in this part of the country, and there were those trying to raise forces to take Delmarva into Rebel territory. It was not uncommon for Rebels across the Bay in Virginia and southern Maryland to try to assist in the mobilization of citizens with southern sympathies here.


88-Year-Old Veteran
Of Civil War Is Dead

JOHN HENRY MADDOX

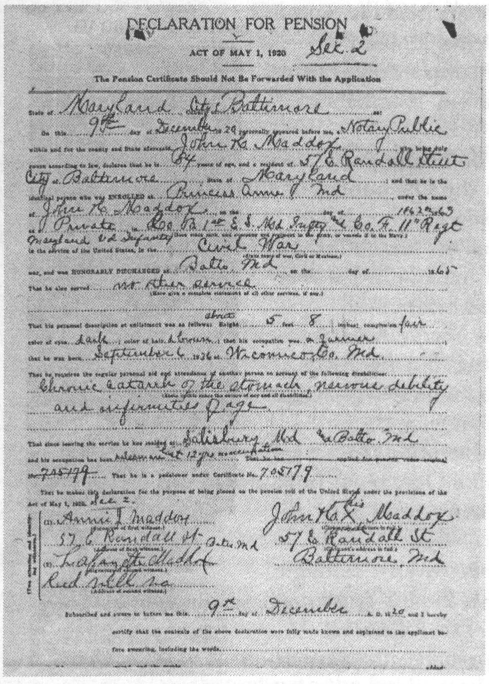
Funeral services for Mr. Maddox will be held today at 2 P. M. at his home, 1928 Light street, where he died Friday. The Rev. William A. Melvin, pastor of Lowe Memorial Methodist Protestant Church, will conduct services. Burial will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Maddox, Civil War veteran and retired farmer, was born 88 years ago at Salisbury, Md. He i survived by his wife, Mrs. An Jane Reilly Maddox; a daugh Mrs. George Langville children and five gr dren.

Obituary of John Henry Maddox in The Baltimore Sun March 17, 1924

It was about one year later, July 15, 1865, that John Henry was mustered out of Army service because of an injury to one hand caused by a gun shot wound, but little is known about the event. While no engagement between Yankee and Rebel forces is recorded in the area where John Henry served, it is certainly possible that a minor skirmish with some smugglers led to the wound. Another member of his regiment provided a detailed affidavit stating that John Henry suffered an "accidental gunshot wound from his own revolver." There always has been a bit of a question as to whether the wound was self-inflicted in order to get out of further service. However, given the fact that his discharge date was soon after the end of the war, such an action would not have seemed justified, and the assumption remains that it was indeed an accidental discharge of his weapon that caused the wound. His discharge from the Army was designated "Honorable."

An entry for John H. Maddox is found in the "Special Schedules of the Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War." He is shown in the Parsons District of Wicomico County, MD. The record of his military service is recorded as a Sergeant in Company F of the 11th Maryland Infantry, and it is noted that he was shot in the hand.


DECLARATION FOR PENSION

ACT OF MAY 1, 1920 Sec. 2

The Pension Certificate Should Not Be Forwarded With the Application

State of Maryland City of Baltimore

On this 9th day of December 20 personally appeared before me, Notary Public within and for the county and State aforesaid John H. Maddox who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is 84 years of age, and a resident of 57 E. Randall Street City of Baltimore State of Maryland; and that he is the identical person who was ENROLLED at Princess Anne Md under the name of John H. Maddox on the day of 1862 or 63 as Private in Co B 1st E. S. Md Infty and Co. F. 11th Regt Maryland Vol Infantry in the service of the United States, in the Civil War war, and was HONORABLY DISCHARGED at Balto. Md on the day of 1865

That he also served no other service

That his personal description at enlistment was as follows: Height about 5 feet 8 inches; complexion fair color of eyes dark; color of hair brown; that his occupation was a farmer that he was born September 6 1836 at Wicomico Co. Md

That he requires the regular personal aid and attendance of another person on account of the following disabilities: Chronic catarrh of the stomach, nervous debility and infirmities of age

That since leaving the service he has resided at Salisbury Md & Balto. Md and his occupation has been last 12 yrs no occupation

705179 That he is a pensioner under Certificate No. 705179

That he makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States under the provisions of the Act of May 1, 1920. Sec. 2.

(1) Annie J. Maddox
57 E. Randall St Balto. Md
(2) Lafayette Maddox
Red Hill Va

John H. his X mark Maddox
57 E. Randall St
Baltimore, Md

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of December A. D. 1920, and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration were fully made known and explained to the applicant before swearing, including the words

Pension Declaration of John Henry Maddox

At some later date, John Henry must have moved to Baltimore, MD. His obituary, along with his picture, is found in the March 17, 1924, edition of *The Sun* newspaper in Baltimore. It states that he died at his residence on Light Street (in Baltimore) and that he was a retired farmer. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Ann Jane Reilly Maddox; a daughter, Mrs. George Langville; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Much of what is known about John Henry's military service comes to us because upon his death in March 14, 1924. His third wife, Annie J. Maddox, petitioned the United States government for a pension for his service. A thorough study was made to determine if it was justified, and initially it was denied because of difficulty finding documentation of his service. However, the appropriate records were eventually found, and Annie Maddox received a pension for the rest of her life. John Henry Maddox' pensioner number was Certificate 705,179.

Gil Kaufman has been researching his Kaufman and Maddox family ancestors for several years in order to document the family history for his descendants. His compilation, *Lazarus Maddox – A Somerset County Settler*, about the Maddox family is available at the Nabb Center.

Purnells Follow Their Call ... from the Eastern Shore of Maryland

by Mark Purnell

The African-American branch of the Purnell family traces its roots on the Delmarva Peninsula to the early 19th century, where twin family traditions were born that have endured through the generations:

> Following one's dreams despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles and obtaining the education needed to turn those dreams into reality.

Joe Whittington, a slave and country preacher, set an example for his sons and descendants through several generations by his persistence in following his calling, in learning to read and write (and later, when that became standard, of striving for higher education), in leading a spiritual life, and in having the courage to leave familiar surroundings and even temporarily separate oneself from beloved family members in order to fulfill one's destiny.

James Whittington Purnell

Joe was said to be of Native American descent (probably from the Queponcos of the Newark area in Worcester County, MD). Although a slave, he was the farm manager for Matthew Purnell in the 1840s. Joe was married to Mary Dennis, who family tradition says was a free Native American. A handwritten note by Ethel Purnell Byers recording a conversation with her father Louis J. Purnell (1877-1974), who was Joe's grandson, states that Mary Dennis was Chippewa. But, this is thought to be an error, perhaps a mishearing of Queponco. Queponco Indiantown was adjacent to Matthew Purnell's farm near 5 Mile Branch Road in Newark.

At some point, Joe received a calling to the ministry of Ezion Methodist Episcopal Church in Wilmington, DE. When he recognized this call to preach – the church term may have been "licensed lay preacher" – Mary Dennis negotiated his freedom from Purnell by a bargain reminiscent of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac: she indentured two of their children, James and Lewis, into service to Purnell until they reached the age of 21. Proof of this indenture can be found in the 1857 inventory of Matthew Purnell showing the value of the remaining time to be served by Lewis and James. This bargain allowed Joe to leave Snow Hill to preach at the Ezion Methodist Episcopal Church in Wilmington. Joe's call to the ministry was not without precedent in the Delmarva area at that time.

Charlotte Pitts Purnell

The oral tradition states that Joe was freed before he went to Wilmington. However, the only manumission reference uncovered to date occurs in Matthew Purnell's will written in 1852 (probated in November 1857). The first paragraph of the will reads:

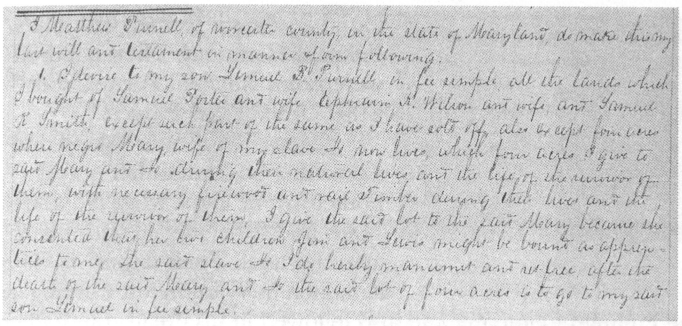
> I, Matthew Purnell, of Worcester County, in the state of Maryland, do make this my last will and testament in manner & form following. I devise ... all the lands ... except four acres where negro Mary, wife of my slave Jo[e] now lives, which four acres I give to them, with necessary firewood and rail Timber during their lives and the life of the survivor of them. I give the said lot to the said Mary because she consented that her two children Jim and Lewis might be bound as apprentices to me. The said slave Jo[e] I do hereby manumit and set free.

Records of the indenture documents of Lewis and James Purnell (Worcester County Orphan Court Proceedings, SRS1 [1842-1848], folios 410 and 411) were located by researcher Pat Taylor of Salisbury University's Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture. Dated June 22, 1848, James's document (the one for Lewis, drawn up on the same day, is similar) notes that James "on the fifteenth day of March next [15 March 1849] ... with the consent ... of said Mary Whittington ... to learn the trade and mystery of farming and all its branches after the manner of an apprentice ... from the date of these presents untile [sic] the fifteenth day of March eighteen hundred and sixty, when the said James Whittington shall attain to the age of twenty one years." He was 9 years old at the time of the indenture; his brother Lewis was 7 going on 8.

The document says that Matthew Purnell "doth hereby promise covenant and agree to teach and instruct the said apprentice or cause him to be taught and instructed in the art, trade or calling of a Farmer by the best way or means he can, and also shall well and faithfully find and provide for the said Apprentice good and sufficient meat, drink clothing lodging and other necessaries fit and convenient for such an apprentice during the term, and at the expiration whereof shall give unto the said apprentice two suits of wearing apparel, one suitable for Sundays and the other for working days."

It is not certain where the family was living when the indenture arrangements were first made. The above-referenced note by great-granddaughter Ethel Purnell Byers indicates that Jim was "bound out to Matt Purnell on 10 acre Farm ("Five Mile Branch" on Berlin Rd in front of 10-acre farm in Snow Hill, Md." (near Newark, MD). It is known that Matthew Purnell purchased a property known as Salem at the edge of Snow Hill in 1847. James Purnell, age 12, is listed in the 1850 Census as living in the Matthew Purnell household. The main house of the Salem estate is still extant at 310 Park Row on the eastern edge of present-day Snow Hill.

Other documentation indicates that Joe was pastor of Ezion

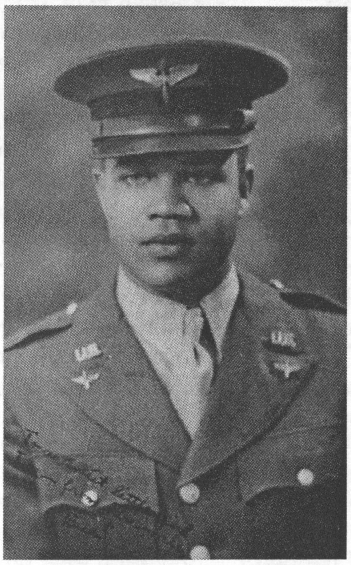


I Matthew Purnell, of Worcester county, in the state of Maryland, do make this my last will and testament in manner & form following.

1. I devise to my son Samuel B. Purnell in fee simple all the lands which I bought of Samuel Porter and wife, Ephraim K. Wilson and wife, and Samuel K. Smith, except such part of the same as I have sold off, also except four acres where negro Mary wife of my slave Jo now lives, which four acres I give to said Mary and Jo during their natural lives and the life of the survivor of them, with necessary firewood and rail timber during their lives and the life of the survivor of them. I give the said lot to the said Mary because she consented that her two children Jim and Lewis might be bound as apprentices to me, the said slave Jo I do hereby manumit and set free, after the death of the said Mary and Jo the said lot of four acres is to go to my said son Samuel in fee simple.

Will of Matthew Purnell

by 1843. The indenture papers for Jim and Lewis were dated 1848, which supports the oral tradition. It is thought that the will was a reinforcement of the original manumission, as was the family's adoption of the Purnell alias as a further layer of protection. This was a common practice in the area, where there was a fairly large population of free people of color in Maryland and Delaware. Paul Heinegg, a noted researcher of the history of free African-Americans, has studied this closely. He has documented court proceedings indicating that some African-Americans of this period were free because they had purchased their freedom, while others were proven free upon testimony that their mothers had been free. It was reasonable that Joe Whittington would be able to move around freely as long as he carried some proof of manumission, perhaps a certificate from Matthew Purnell or the court that has not survived in the historical record.



Louis Rayfield Purnell Sr. was a captain in the Army's World War II all-black 332nd Fighter Group, better known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Although slave importation was banned after 1807, the buying and selling of slaves was still permitted. The use of the cotton gin to comb the fibers and separate the seeds increased cotton production nearly four-fold between 1830 and 1850, but harvesting cotton remained a labor-intensive hand operation that greatly increased the demand for slave labor in the Deep South. By the 1840s, free "coloreds" in Maryland, both Negro and Indian, were often at serious risk of being kidnapped and sold into slavery in the Deep South. Mary Dennis' strategy of having her sons on record as indentured to Matthew Purnell, and adding the Purnell name to the Whittington name, gave the family an added measure of protection during this dangerous time.

Although at first glance it seems astonishing that a slave could be permitted to travel away from his owner, Joe Whittington's situation was not all that unusual for that time and place in Maryland. As Laura J. Weldon, a researcher of African-American and upper South colonial history has discovered, it was not unusual at the time for a slave to live or work at some distance from the master. In a brief overview of antebellum Black history on the Delmarva Peninsula, she notes:

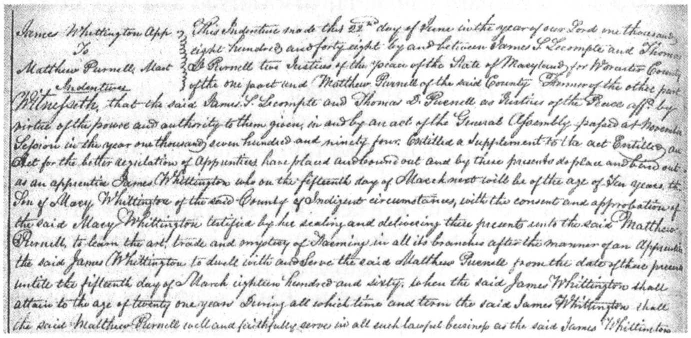
- Many slaves were allowed by their masters to live and work with relatives who sometimes lived as much as 120 miles away.
- Some masters never farmed, but kept slaves as an investment, renting them out to non-slaveholding farmers or large planters in need of temporary additional labor. Because of this, some slaves spent a lifetime on a plantation and never knew their owners. Harriet Tubman, for example, did not know her owner.
- There is considerable evidence of free black women who were married to slaves. Particularly on the Eastern Shore it was not at all unusual for a slave to live with his free wife away from the property of his owner.

The early records of Ezion AME Church were destroyed in an 1886 fire. As best as can be determined from a reading of the centennial history of its mother church, Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, the church was founded in 1805 by members of Asbury ME Church, founded by Francis Asbury himself, one of the first Methodist Episcopal bishops in the United States. For at least part of its history, Asbury Church was a racially mixed congregation, as were other Methodist congregations at the time.

Reverend Joseph Whittington became pastor of Ezion upon the death of the first pastor, Reverend Jacob Pindergrass, in 1843. Under Reverend Whittington the congregation outgrew the original stone church and the building was enlarged "by extending its front" in 1844. As testimony to how beloved he was, in 1870 a daughter church of Ezion was built in South Wilmington "on Buttonwood Street, south of the Christiana creek" and was named Whittington Methodist Episcopal Chapel.

Back in Snow Hill, Lewis Whittington Purnell presumably was freed from his indenture when he turned 21 on September 15, 1861, as stated in Matthew Purnell's inventory (he was born September 15, 1840). On November 18, 1863, he enlisted in the Union Army, 9th Regiment U.S. Colored Infantry after having spent "some time in Subsistence Department as laborer" according to the regiment's Company G Descriptive Book. His age at the time was given as 22 (he would have been 23, having been born in 1840), his complexion and eyes "Black," his hair "Wool," his place of birth "Worcester, Md.," his height as 5 feet 1½ inches, and his occupation "Farm h[and]." Although the Company Descriptive Book has Lewis "Mustered out with Regt. November 26, 1866," a discharge record of July 24, 1865 is consistent with the family oral tradition and indicates that he died "at RLS Genl Hospital at New Orleans, La., of Dyptheria" on the 9th day of July 1865.

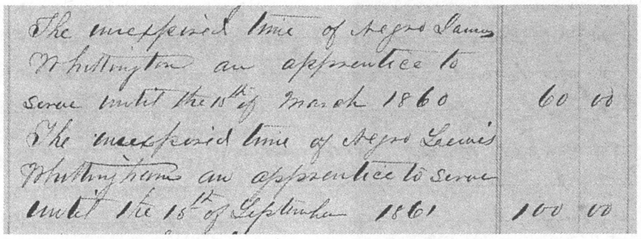
There is some indication that another Lewis Purnell from Worcester County, Md., also enlisted in the Colored Troops and



James Whittington App
To
Matthew Purnell Mast
Indenture

This Indenture made this 22nd day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty eight by and between James S. Lecompte and Thom D. Purnell two Justices of the peace of the State of Maryland for Worcester County of the one part and Matthew Purnell of the said County Farmer of the other part Witnesseth, that the said James S. Lecompte and Thomas D. Purnell as Justices of the Peace afsd by virtue of the power and authority to them given, in and by an act of the General Assembly passed at Novemb Session in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety four. Entitled a Supplement to the act Entitled an Act for the better regulation of Apprentices have placed and bound out and by these presents do place and bind out as an apprentice James Whittington who on the fifteenth day of March next will be of the age of Ten years the Son of Mary Whittington of the said County of Indigent circumstances, with the consent and approbation of the said Mary Whittington testified by her sealing and delivering these presents unto the said Matthew Purnell, to learn the art, trade and mystery of Farming in all its branches after the manner of an Apprenti the said James Whittington to dwell with and Serve the said Matthew Purnell from the date of these prese untill the fifteenth day of March eighteen hundred and sixty, when the said James Whittington shall attain to the age of twenty one years During all which time and term the said James Whittington shall the said Matthew Purnell well and faithfully serve in all such lawful business as the said James Whittinton

Indenture of James Whittington


The unexpired time of Negro James Whittington an apprentice to serve until the 15th of March 1860 60 00
The unexpired time of Negro Lewis Whittington an apprentice to serve until the 15th of September 1861 100 00

Inventory of Matthew Purnell

he may have been the one listed in the record books as discharged, especially as the height of the Lewis who died in New Orleans is listed as 5 feet 4½ inches rather than the 5 feet 1½ inches in the Company G Descriptive Book. On the other hand, the slant of the downstroke in the numeral 1 is not consistent with other 1 numerals written in the same hand in the Company G Descriptive book and could be an incomplete numeral 4.

The age on the death certificate is given as 23 (rather than 24 as calculated from his known date of birth in September 1840), and the mustering-in date is a day different from the Company Descriptive book which is approximately correct, being November 17, 1863, with the same Colonel. The record also indicates he had "pay due him from December 31, 1864 to the ~~present date~~ [sic] of death" along with $10.16 due since October 31, 1864, "when his clothing allowance was last settled." A handwritten annotation in the left margin indicates, "The Soldier died without effects."

James Whittington Purnell, Lewis's elder brother, was born March 15, 1839. He lived to the age of 88. According to the notes of Ethel Purnell Byers, James (as was Lewis) was bound out to Matthew Purnell to work on a 10-acre farm that was near the intersection of the 5 Mile Branch and Berlin Road. James is listed as 12 years old in the 1850 Worcester County census of free people living in Matthew Purnell's household. Family lore has it that he was taught to read while living here. In the 1860 Worcester County Census, James is listed as 21 years old and living in the household of Thomas Rounds.

James married Charlotte Elizabeth Derrickson Pitts on January 4, 1871. According to family oral history, Charlotte was three-quarters white. She was the granddaughter of a Frenchwoman named Patty Clark from either Pittsville or Pittsburgh, MD, (the two Wicomico County communities were close to one another) and a coachman, perhaps a slave, whose name has not yet been found in the historical record. Charlotte Clark and James Derrickson, a white physician living near the Sinepuxent Neck near Berlin, MD, were the parents of Charlotte Pitts. James Purnell, along with his wife Charlotte and four children, are found in the 1880 Worcester County Census in Dwelling 486/Family 508. Charlotte bore 22 children, but only six survived.

Louis James Purnell, one of the six surviving children, was born February 23, 1877, in Snow Hill. He was educated at Hampton Normal School for Negroes in Hampton, VA, a school modeled on a military school. He first worked as a steward on a Chesapeake Bay steamboat running the Cape Charles to Baltimore route. He married Rose B. Waters, also of Worcester County, in 1906. He then returned to Snow Hill and began teaching in the Negro elementary school system. Their children were Ernest William Purnell and Louise Purnell.

After Rose died at 35 of tuberculosis, Louis married a teaching colleague, Tillie Rayfield, a 1916 graduate of Howard University and one of 57 female graduates in her class. The family later moved to Wilmington, DE, "seeking to improve their manner of living," but neither was able to work as teachers due to the segregated nature of society at the time. Louis finally found a job as a painter with the Pullman Company. Their children were Louis Rayfield Purnell and Ethel Grace Purnell Byers.

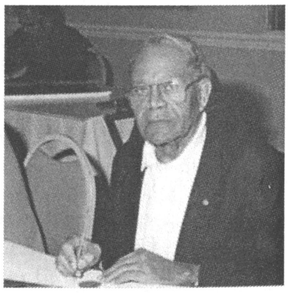
"Mom Tillie" was able to find a teaching position in her hometown of Cape May, NJ, and Louis and Ethel moved with her to attend school. Their father remained in Wilmington working at the Pullman Company and also followed in his great-grandfather Whittington's footsteps by preaching at another Asbury offspring, Haven Methodist Church in Wilmington.

Louis (born April 5, 1921) and Ethel's new home in Cape May was "a mostly white neighborhood; his father told him that in order to appear equal to, you have to be twice as good." From an early age he loved aviation. He was a student at Lincoln University (Chester County, PA) in the fall semester of 1939 when Lincoln was selected as a flight school established by the Civilian Pilot Training Program. He was one of six Lincoln students to sign up for the school; all six earned their wings.

In the summer of 1941, he took advanced training at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama; he finished the course in September, but could go no further because the Army Air Corps would not accept blacks as aviation cadets. He returned to Lincoln. Under mounting social pressure, the Corps began accepting black pilots, and a month after Pearl Harbor, Louis reported to Tuskegee Army Air Field as an aviation cadet, earning his wings a few months after the first class.

Ethel Purnell Byers

As clearly outlined in the movie *Red Tails*, the Army would not accept black pilots for combat for more than a year, but finally in April 1943, the 27 pilots of the 99th Fighter Squadron were sent to North Africa. Louis was based there for six months and after a leave and brief stint stateside as a flight instructor received permission to join the 332nd Fighter group – four squadrons of black pilots, including the original 99th – that was headed for bases in southern Italy to escort bombers on missions over Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters in 1945.


Louis Rayfield Purnell

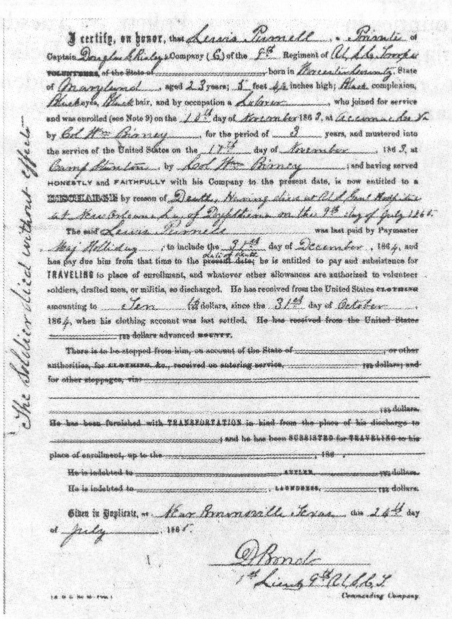
After the war, he completed graduate courses in oceanography and went to work as an oceanographer. In 1961, he joined the Division of Invertebrate Zoology at the National Museum of Natural History as a museum specialist and studied geology at George Washington University, specializing in the identification of cephalopods. After being passed over for promotion several times because of his race, he transferred to the National Air and Space Museum staff in the Astronautics Department, first working as museum specialist.

It was a good career move for Louis. The 1969 moon landing occurred on his watch, as did the museum's new home on the National Mall, and in 1971 he was put in charge of replacing the Apollo 4 exhibit with the Apollo 11 Command Module.

By 1972, he had become an expert on space suits and had also been promoted to assistant curator, caring for collections from the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs for almost 20 years before his 1990 retirement. Even in retirement he was curating, this time a museum-quality collection of locks. He died August 10, 2001.

Ernest Purnell was born to Louis James and Rose on December 2, 1909. He was educated at Hampton Normal School for Negroes, as his father had been, and "was being trained as a draftsman, a craft not completely open to Negro males universally." When his father remarried and moved to Wilmington, Ernest and his sister Louise followed.

He met Edith Naylor in Wilmington, and they married in 1929. A son, also named Ernest William ("Junior" within the family), was born in 1930, followed by Zelda in 1932, Franklin in 1934 and Patricia in 1944. Ernest found work with the Pullman Company as his father had, but not as a draftsman for which he had been trained, but as a machinist helper, which meant he did a draftsman's work but without the title, pay or recognition. He was laid off without pay in the summers, which meant a constant struggle to provide for his family in any way he could.



The Soldier died without effects

I certify, on honor, that Louis Purnell, a Private of Captain Douglas Risley's Company (G) of the 9th Regiment of U.S.C. Troops ~~VOLUNTEERS, of the State of~~ ______ born in Worcester County, State of Maryland, aged 23 years; 5 feet 4½ inches high; Black complexion, Black eyes, Black hair, and by occupation a Laborer, who joined for service and was enrolled (see Note 9) on the 12th day of November 1863, at Accomac Co. Va by Col Wm Birney for the period of 3 years, and mustered into the service of the United States on the 17th day of November, 1863, at Camp Stanton by Col Wm Birney; and having served HONESTLY and FAITHFULLY with his Company to the present date, is now entitled to a DISCHARGE by reason of Death, Having died at U.S. Genl Hospital at New Orleans La of Dypthenia on the 9th day of July 1865.

The said Louis Purnell was last paid by Paymaster Maj Holliday, to include the 31st day of December, 1864, and has pay due him from that time to the ~~present date~~ date of death; he is entitled to pay and subsistence for TRAVELING to place of enrollment, and whatever other allowances are authorized to volunteer soldiers, drafted men, or militia, so discharged. He has received from the United States ~~CLOTHING~~ amounting to Ten 65/100 dollars, since the 31st day of October, 1864, when his clothing account was last settled. ~~He has received from the United States ______ 100 dollars advanced BOUNTY.~~

~~There is to be stopped from him, on account of the State of ______, or other authorities, for CLOTHING, &c., received on entering service, ______ 100 dollars; and for other stoppages, viz:~~ ______ 100 dollars.

~~He has been furnished with TRANSPORTATION in kind from the place of his discharge to ______; and he has been SUBSISTED for TRAVELING to his place of enrollment, up to the ______, 186 .~~

~~He is indebted to ______, SUTLER, ______ 100 dollars.~~

He is indebted to ______, LAUNDRESS, ______ 100 dollars.

Given in Duplicate, at New Braunsville Texas this 26th day of July, 1865.

D Bond
1st Lieut 9th U.S.C.T.
Commanding Company

Military discharge of Louis Whittington Purnell

In 1942, Ernest purchased and registered his third vehicle. Even though it was a cabinless 1929 Hudson – basically a heap of junk – it entitled him to gas rations, which he could then sell on the black market. What was left of the Hudson was on blocks in a field just behind the former Mt. Olive Cemetery at 2nd and Bancroft, a Negro burial ground. He had to get the jacked-up clunker from there to the family home in Buttonwood (near New Castle), a distance of seven miles. He had to repair the wooden spokes on the wheels, inflate the tires' inner tubes, and secure an orange crate for his son Junior to sit and steer while the elder Ernest, known within the family as Pop, towed it home behind his 1936 Chevy dump truck.

Once safely home, Pop converted the Hudson's engine into a saw with an 18-inch cutting blade and added shields and other safety features so Junior could use it with a minimum of danger. His goal was to cut railroad ties into sizes appropriate for heating and cooking fuel and sell them.

Eventually the wood business morphed into a hauling business, which had a tragic outcome. Junior helped Pop in the hauling business, but one day in 1945 a piano-moving job conflicted with his son's school schedule and the elder Ernest decided to move the piano himself. It fell on him, puncturing a lung. Complications from pneumonia and his underlying diabetes set in and he fell into a coma and died 36 hours later, on July 4, 1945. He was only 35.

Edith lived only a few months longer. She had tuberculosis and had never quite recovered from the birth of Patricia in 1944. She died on November 28, 1945, at the age of 34. Junior, Zelda, Frank and Patricia were taken in by Greta Naylor Anderson and Delmas Anderson, Edith's sister and brother-in-law, recently married and living in Wilmington but with no children of their own. The hand-to-mouth existence the children had known during the Depression and World War II was finally over. As an adult Ernest Jr. recalled that this move to Kirkwood Street in Wilmington was like being transplanted by God to a Garden of Eden. Aunt Greta saved the children's Social Security checks for their education and managed their inheritance (the family home at 212 N. Lincoln Street in Wilmington) until Ernest could buy out his siblings when he got married.

Ernest Junior graduated from Howard High School in Wilmington in 1947 and Eccles College of Mortuary Science in 1949. After serving in the 101st Airborne during the Korean War, however, he decided he preferred to continue in federal employment and joined the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier in 1953. He married Yolanda M. Valentine on November 28 that same year, in Philadelphia, adding a happier occasion to the date that was the anniversary of his mother's death.

His letter-carrier pay was $1.50 an hour, but even so, by 1955 he had saved enough to move the family to better housing and integrated a Wilmington neighborhood. Some of his white neighbors were not happy about this, and one of his children recalls that he made sure to wear his postal uniform at every opportunity, even when mowing the lawn; as it was a federal crime to assault a federal employee, he felt this gave him an added layer of protection.

Ernest Junior and Yolanda's children include Ernest William (his father's namesake), born 1954, and Mark Purnell, born 1957. Ernest Junior retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1988 and from his second career with National Presort in 1991.

Reverend Joe Whittington's legacy of persistence in following his call to ministry despite insurmountable odds has continued to inspire generations of his descendants. The family has always had a strong interest in getting as much education, both technical and academic, as possible. In 2012, the values Joe Whittington and Mary Dennis passed on to their descendants were again called to mind by the family with the release of *Red Tails*, the George Lucas-produced motion picture about the Tuskegee Airmen.

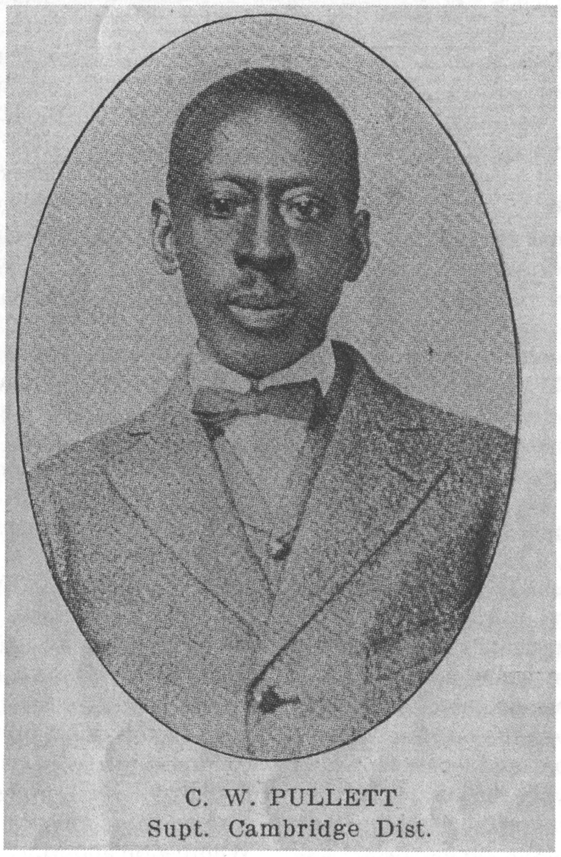
Although *Red Tails* is a composite of many experiences, it surely would have rung true to Joe's great-grandson Louis R. Purnell, one of the fighter pilots in the 99th Pursuit Squadron and 332nd Fighter Group, who went on to subsequent careers as an oceanographer and curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

Mark Purnell has an avid interest in family history and this past summer spoke at the African American Civil War Museum in Washington, D.C., about his ancestor who served in the U.S.C.T. during the Civil War. He has donated related family materials to the Nabb Center where they can be preserved for future researchers.

It is in the details – Don't miss them. A Tragedy discovered.

By L. Paul Morris Jr.

Frost Pollitt was born into slavery in October 1789, probably on the Worcester County, MD, plantation owned by William Pollitt. Frost was manumitted April 12, 1828, and from then until 1864 he was an itinerant Methodist Episcopal preacher in Somerset and Worcester counties in Maryland. He also preached in Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Frost Pollitt became the first pastor of the African-American Church in Salisbury, MD, which came to be known as the John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1851, he became a deacon in the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 1864, he became a founding member and presiding elder of the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



C.W. Pullett

I have been researching the life and family of the Reverend Frost Pollitt, his son Reverend Charles Pullett and grandson Reverend Charles Wesley Pullett since 1985. In 2010, I started doing more extensive research on the entire family and various individual descendants. Frost had at least four sons and four daughters, while Charles had at least three sons and five daughters. Charles Wesley Pullett, however, only had one son, Charles Frost Pullett, who was born by his second wife.

Recently, I received an email from Ancestry.com telling me that I had new "hints" for people in this tree. One of them was Laura A. Taylor who I knew to be the first wife of Reverend Charles W. Pullett. I opened the link to view her Delaware death certificate. Although I had previously seen this document and linked it to her profile, I obviously hadn't been paying close attention to the details when I first saw it. This time I studied the document in depth. One thing stood out – Cause of Death: Pistol Shot to the Head, Self Inflicted. Wow! How did I miss this before? She was listed as 40 years old.

According to her Delaware ceath certificate, Mrs. Laura A. (Taylor) Pullett died in Bridgeville, Sussex County, DE, on April 26, 1913. She was buried in Washington, D.C., but the specific cemetery was not listed. It listed her father as William Taylor, born in Alexandria, VA. The informant was Cha[rle]s. W. Pullett, whose residence was listed as Bridgeville, DE. After I shared this information with the Nabb Center staff, Donna Messick discovered a short article published on May 4, 1913, in the *Afro-American Ledger*, listing the people who attended her funeral in Bridgeville.

> *Special to the Afro-American Ledger May 4, 1913*
> Mr. and Mrs. U.G. Langston, Mrs. James Johnson, Mr. Frank Anderson, and Mr. Percy Parker attended the funeral of Mrs. Laura Pullett, wife of Rev. Charles Pullett, on Tuesday afternoon [April 29] at Bridgeville, Del.

I was able to identify some of these people. Mrs. Julia Langston was Reverend Charles W. Pullett's cousin. Mrs. James Johnson could have been Lillie Gertrude (Brown) Johnson, daughter of Mary Elizabeth (Pullett) Brown, Reverend Charles W. Pullett's father's sister. If so, she would have been a cousin. Mr. Frank Anderson's relationship is unknown, but he was most likely related to Reverend Charles W. Pullett on either the Pullett or Huston side. Percy Parker's relationship is also unknown, but he probably lived in Baltimore in 1913. The article did not list anyone whom I knew to be related to Laura. I was able to determine that Laura's brother John was probably in either Nebraska or California in 1913.

I was surprised that the funeral notice in the *Afro-American Ledger* stated that Laura Pullett died in Bridgeville, DE; I thought that she and Reverend Pullett would have been living in Cambridge, MD, in 1913 since he was the superintendent, Cambridge District, of the Delaware Conference Methodist Episcopal Church. When I returned to the Nabb Center to do some more research, I found documentation that Reverend Pullett, while superintendent, had been living in Salisbury in 1912 and then he was in Bridgeville in 1913 and 1914. Mrs. Pullett's death on April 26 was just several weeks after the close of the Annual Delaware Conference held in Philadelphia, PA. It was highly probable that she attended the conference, but I would have to read every word of those 1913 Conference Minutes to verify that assumption.

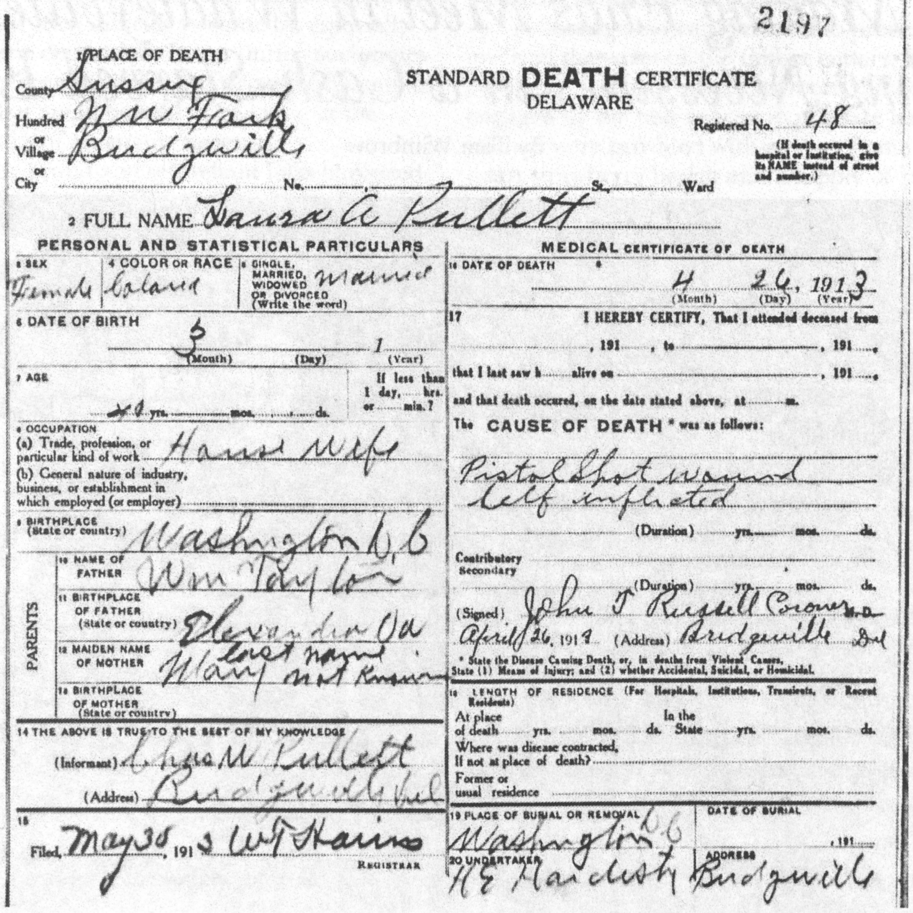
According to historian Rev. Joseph F. DiPaolo, there already was precedent that death by suicide did not preclude one from having a memoir included in the Annual Minutes. The memoirs of two ministers whose cause of death was suicide had been previously published.

Mrs. Laura A. Pullett was mentioned in the 1914 Minutes of the Delaware Conference. While the cause of death was not specifically mentioned, both a resolution and remarks were included in the memoirs. The resolution came from the preachers of the Wilmington District of the Delaware Conference, who stated "That we, the ministers of the Wilmington District, realizing that we cannot put into words our feelings nor convey our thoughts, must be content to declare our humble submission to the divine will while extending to our bereaved brother the warmest sympathy."

Additionally, the resolution for Mrs. Pullett was followed by remarks by Reverend W.C. Jason, D.D. who stated that:

> … this woman led an active life. Her hands were full of labors, not aimless nor misdirected but intelligent efforts to accomplish results of permanent value to those whom she could help … I was often the guest in their home, and from personal knowledge can confirm the general impression. Love was there … But this woman was a Christian. She was taught from childhood to think of the life to come with a faith unwavering in its eternity of joys, especially precious to those who suffer in the flesh … She would bear the cross believing it the complement to the crown … When deeds fraught with momentous consequences are committed without reason, reason has been dethroned. Our sister was not herself … The shadow is deep, my brother; you grieve, but not alone. Our hearts mourn with you and we cannot bid them cease.

This is definitely a confirmation of an untimely and unfortunate passing.



2197

1 PLACE OF DEATH

County Sussex

Hundred N W Fork

or Village Bridgeville

or City ………… No. ………… St. ………… Ward

STANDARD **DEATH** CERTIFICATE

DELAWARE

Registered No. 48

(If death occured in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

2 FULL NAME Laura A Pullett

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX Female

4 COLOR OR RACE Colored

5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (Write the word) Married

6 DATE OF BIRTH 3 (Month) (Day) 1 (Year)

7 AGE 41 yrs. ………… mos. ………… ds. If less than 1 day, …… hrs. or …… min.?

8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work House Wife

(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) …………

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Washington D.C

PARENTS

10 NAME OF FATHER Wm Taylor

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) Alexandria Va

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Mary last name not known

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) …………

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

(Informant) Chas W Pullett

(Address) Bridgeville Del

15 Filed, May 30, 1913 W T Haines REGISTRAR

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH 4 (Month) 26, (Day) 1913 (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from …………, 191……, to …………, 191……,

that I last saw h…… alive on …………, 191……,

and that death occured, on the date stated above, at …… m.

The CAUSE OF DEATH * was as follows:

Pistol Shot wound

Self inflicted

(Duration) …… yrs. …… mos. …… ds.

Contributory Secondary …………

(Duration) …… yrs. …… mos. …… ds.

(Signed) John T Russell Coroner M.D.

April 26, 1913 (Address) Bridgeville Del

* State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes, State (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal.

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents)

At place of death …… yrs. …… mos. …… ds. In the State …… yrs. …… mos. …… ds.

Where was disease contracted, If not at place of death? …………

Former or usual residence …………

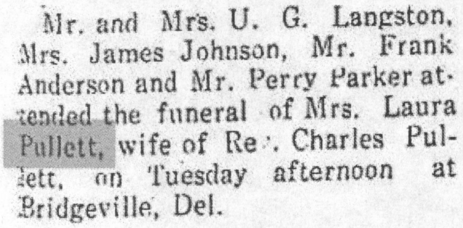
19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Washington D.C

DATE OF BURIAL ……, 191……

20 UNDERTAKER H E Hardisty

ADDRESS Bridgeville

Laura Pullett's death certificate



Mr. and Mrs. U. G. Langston, Mrs. James Johnson, Mr. Frank Anderson and Mr. Perry Parker attended the funeral of Mrs. Laura Pullett, wife of Rev. Charles Pullett, on Tuesday afternoon at Bridgeville, Del.

Funeral notice from Afro-American May 14, 1913

Reverend Charles W. Pullett and Miss Laura A. Taylor were married in Washington, D.C., on September 24, 1891, probably after his graduation from Howard University earlier that year. At her death, they had been married 22 years. In both the 1900 and 1910 censuses, Laura was listed as having 0 children with 0 surviving. Since Reverend Pullett remarried within two years of Laura's death and had a son within the first year of his remarriage, Laura had possibly been barren. Her burden as a preacher's wife had her move frequently, usually either every year or every three years. In those 22 years, they lived in at least nine different towns, including four years in Orange, NJ.

I attempted to determine where Mrs. Pullet was interred in Washington, D.C., by tracing her family. I found her father William M. Taylor in Washington, D.C., and her mother Mary. She had at least eight siblings – seven brothers and one sister. Of her brothers, the eldest was a farmer and the next, John Francis C. Taylor, was a minister who was assigned to ministries in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska, finally ending up in California. One brother, Littleton F. Taylor, preceded Laura in death in 1892; another, George P. Taylor, died in 1906. Several siblings could not be traced. However, I can deduce that Miss Laura A. Taylor and Reverend Charles W. Pullett probably met due to the Howard University connection since her brother John attended the same school and also became a minister.

Only the Lord knows why this fine Christian woman chose to end her life, but it is indeed tragic. However, had she not passed on to the other side, Reverend Pullett's line would have ended there and his son Charles Frost Pullett and grandson Charles Pullett would never have been born.

More information on the Reverend Frost Pollitt and his family can be found on the website www.frostpollitt.org.

L. Paul Morris, Jr. has been researching Delmarva African-American families, specifically those families that were once slaves of his third great-grandfather, James Morris, for over five years. Due to that research, he has learned a great deal about the Delaware Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Morris has created the Frost Pollitt Memorial Endowment at the Salisbury University Foundation, Inc. to support the interest in 18th and 19th century local African-American history. The first lecture sponsored by that endowment, "This Is My Story; This Is My Song" by David W. Brown, is scheduled to be held at Perdue Hall, Bennett Family Auditorium, on Salisbury University's campus on Wednesday, April 15, at 7 p.m.

Making Ends Meet in Whaleyville: Providing Necessities in a Cash-Starved Economy

By Tom Wimbrow

Cypress swamp. Photo by Orlando Wootten

The village of Whaleyville, where I was privileged to spend a wonderful childhood, is located on the upper reaches of the Pocomoke River and Swamp. The Pocomoke has its origins west of Dagsboro, DE, and quietly wends its way through Maryland, ultimately emptying into the Chesapeake Bay near Crisfield, MD, not far from the Virginia line. Until the river near Whaleyville was channelized by the Soil Conservation Service after World War II, the area was a living reminder of the primeval forest that had existed since the close of the last ice age. To the people of Whaleyville, the river and its swamp were an integral part of their lives and a source of much-needed income, especially when times were difficult.

Natives of Delmarva do not need to be reminded of the bounty of our region. This land, with its sandy loam soil, tempered by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Chesapeake Bay on the west, easily yields a bounty of flora and fauna. Anyone with a strong work ethic can provide for the nutritional needs of a family without the large expenditure of funds. All that is needed to feed a family royally is a small plot of land for a vegetable garden, a few chickens, a cow or two, and a couple of pigs, along with a fishing pole and a gun. Many times during my youth I have heard the older residents of Whaleyville describe their survival of the Great Depression by proudly noting, "We were poor but we always had plenty of good things to eat!"

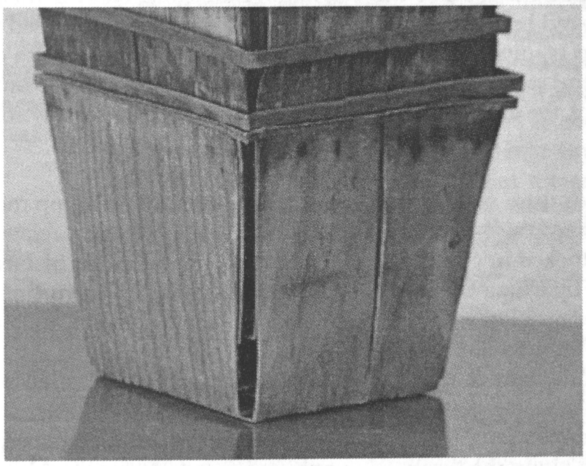
Nonetheless, there were always a few necessary items that could not be coaxed from field or woods. Such items as footwear, various clothing items, sugar, spices, farm equipment and household furnishings had to be purchased at the general store. The hard cash needed was often difficult to come by, especially during periods of economic depression. It was during such times that Whaleyville residents ventured into the Pocomoke Swamp to creatively harvest items that could be sold or bartered at the country store to fill the gaps of economic necessity.

What was it that these proud and self-reliant folks harvested from the swamp to make ends meet? Through conversations held around the stove in the Whaleyville store and late-night front porch talks with my father, I have been left with the following memories that serve to answer this question. My hope is that this short essay will record for future generations the story of a way of life that had largely ceased to exist by my birth.

Cutting Timber

The Pocomoke Swamp included the northernmost stand of bald cypress on the East Coast. Cypress, a deciduous conifer, loves swampy land, even growing in standing water with its mysterious "knees" protruding through the surface. The swamp also provided habitat for numerous other tree species including the gum tree. At the time of European colonization, the swamp had endured for thousands of years, showing little impact from humans save the occasional tree sacrificed for a dugout canoe by the Native Americans. The early colonists soon learned that the swamp contained a rich supply of lumber for the needs of an expanding nation.

Two species, previously mentioned, proved to be of particular value to the natives of Whaleyville. Very early local entrepreneurs set up sawmills, at first water-powered, later powered by steam. When farm harvest was completed in the fall, the opportunity existed for the men of the community to be employed by the mill operators to harvest the virgin timber of the swamp with special emphasis on cypress and gum. Demanding work, in the days of two-man crosscut saws, it was often necessary to harvest timber when the swamp was flooded.



In such cases, the men worked from crude rowboats, felling the timber and then towing it to high ground with teams of oxen. Oxen would work in conditions where horses and mules rebelled. My father related times when trained oxen swam out into the swamp and swam back with a large log in tow, without human guidance.

When harvesting gum timber, the logs were cut into short pieces, about four feet in length, and stripped of their bark in the woods. This was done so the material would fit the veneer lathes in the local sawmills that produced the thin sheets of wood needed to manufacture baskets and crates for the fruit and vegetable business, including the important strawberry industry. Prior to being placed in the lathe, the sections of gum were boiled for 24 hours in a "gum pit," a swimming pool-like pit in the ground heated by steam. This was necessary to make the wood soft and pliable.

Making Strawberry Baskets

A "cottage industry" related to processing of the gum tree involved the wives of the timber cutters. Before machines were developed to make quart strawberry baskets, local women were engaged by the mill owners to produce handmade baskets. The women were provided with an iron frame the exact size of a quart strawberry basket and a supply of pre-cut veneer strips and small tacks. The veneer strips were bent over the frame and secured with another thin strip of veneer and the tacks, which when driven against the iron frame were peened over to make a tight basket. This work was done at home in the evening, and the maker was paid a small amount for each basket produced.

It is interesting to note that those engaged in the timber harvest and related work were not always paid in cash but instead received "script" that could be redeemed in the general store for merchandise. The fact that the general store in Whaleyville was also owned by the same persons who owned the sawmill seemed to make this arrangement attractive to both the mill owners and to the workers.

Mining Cypress

The resinous nature of cypress wood makes it absolutely impervious to rot. In a time when exterior paint was not always available or affordable, this made cypress the wood of choice for shingles. While the local mills produced sawn shingles, the reality was that a "split shingle," cleaved by a dull-edged instrument called a froe, was much more durable since the surface followed the natural grain of the wood.

Cypress trees had lived out their life cycles for thousands of years in the Pocomoke Swamp, ultimately being felled by storms, disease or old age. Once on the forest floor, they were eventually buried under yearly deposits of leaf mold. Slowly the sapwood of the tree disappeared, but the oily heart remained. The local folks learned that one could cruise the swamp floor in periods of dryness and discern "ridges" in the leaf mould that outlined an ancient fallen tree. To give proof of a fallen tree they would probe the outline with an iron rod until they were sure of its existence. At that point the leaf mold was removed with shovels and, using poles as levers, the log was pried up above the surface with one end placed on a sawhorse. Using crosscut saws the trunk was cut into shingle-length blocks and then split into rough shingles using a mallet and froe. With the use of a shingle horse and drawknife the shingle was tapered and trimmed to the finished product. Bundles of shingles were then transported to the general store and bartered for needed family items. The storekeeper sold the shingles, at a small profit, to area builders. It is still possible to find examples of these shingles on older Delmarva buildings, often showing damage from rain erosion but never from rot.

Cutting Ivory

In Whaleyville, "ivory" was the local name for a type of laurel that grew in the swamp undergrowth. It was a shiny leaf plant that was in demand by the florist trade. I am told it was used to make funeral displays and was most often shipped to

Philadelphia-area florists. Only those plants with leaves unblemished by disease or insect damage were gathered, so considerable labor was required to harvest it in sufficient quantities. Once gathered, it was baled in burlap and shipped to city markets, often by the local storekeeper.

By my childhood the ivory industry was on its way out, but there were still a few hardy souls who spent days in the swamp in hip boots pursuing the best examples of this plant. I fondly remember one elderly resident of Whaleyville who was known only as "Ivory Jim Hudson" since his main source of income was the gathering of laurel. Today "Ivory Jim" would be considered homeless, since his residence was an old army tent in the woods near our home.

Turkling

The swamp was an ideal habitat for turtles of all types, including the snapping turtle. Local pronunciation of the species caused the catching of the animal to be called "turkling." The meat of the snapping turtle was in demand in city restaurants, and it could survive the rigors of shipping with little harm.

There were always a few members of the community who enjoyed "turkling," treating it as much a sport as a harvest. The manner for catching turtles was not for the faint of heart. Experts at this endeavor would wade out into the swamp using their feet to locate a submerged animal. Once discovered, they could discern head from tail and would deftly reach down and capture the turtle by the tail. A mistake could be costly, since the snapping turtle's bite can be brutal. Once snared by the tail, the turtle was deposited in a burlap bag. Full bags of turtles were securely tied and bartered or sold at the general store. Shipment by rail to city markets was the responsibility of the storeowner.

Making Wreaths

As Christmas approached each year, funds were needed to provide children with simple gifts, including hard candy and the much-treasured orange, a special treat only stocked in country stores during the holiday season. One means by which Christmas money could be obtained was by gathering swamp holly and producing wreaths for shipment to the city. The men and boys went into the swamp in November to harvest the best of the holly, taking care to not destroy the tree, thus assuring good foliage for future years. They also gathered "crow's foot," an intensely green ground-creeping vine that ran along the forest floor. Both were used by the entire family to produce wreaths. Their work was done in the evening, around the kitchen table, first bending small branches into a circle to which the fresh holly or crow's foot was attached. The completed product was then taken to the store for sale or barter to help "Old Kris," as he was called in Whaleyville, with his annual visit to the little ones.

Picking Huckleberries

Until the Pocomoke Swamp was channelized, the area was ideal habitat for growing the wild blueberry plant known locally as the huckleberry. Smaller than today's commercial blueberry, it flourished in the undergrowth of the swamp. In season, everyone in the family could participate in huckleberrying. The berries were not only consumed by the family, but also they were cleaned and bartered at the country store where they were sold or shipped to city markets. After channelization of the river in the 1940s, the subsequent loss of moisture in the swamp floor quickly caused the demise of the huckleberry as an income source.

Trapping

There were always a few persons who trapped animals during the winter months. Muskrats and raccoons were the animals of choice by the trappers. While the meat was sometimes sold, the primary purpose for trapping was the hide. The animals were skinned, and the hide was stretched over a wooden frame and allowed to cure, often in rows on the side of an outbuilding. When sufficiently cured, the hides were bundled and shipped by mail to the Sears Roebuck and Company, then a large buyer of fur.

Bootlegging

No treatment of this topic would be factually complete or totally honest if one did not admit that the Pocomoke Swamp was an ideal hiding place for a still. Those who had lived in the area for a lifetime knew the topography of the swamp like the back of their hand. They knew the ridges and high spots, safe from rising water and the attention of federal agents. While most Whaleyville residents were staunch Methodists whose leaders preached the evils of strong drink and demanded abstinence, this did not mean the locals were not tempted to make a little "moonshine," especially if it enabled them to provide for their families. The swamp provided the fuel and water for the still; the farm provided the grain; with only the sugar to be obtained elsewhere. The finished product, bottled in mason jars, found a ready market and was easily sold to trusted customers.

Conclusion

The Pocomoke Swamp today is economically important to the community only as it relates to eco-tourism and the responsible containment of farm runoff. One can conclude that it is fortunate that economic conditions and advances in Whaleyville have made it unnecessary for most to use the swamp for survival. It also can be argued that the loss of a lifestyle that promoted hard work and self-reliance sustained by the bounty of nature is regrettable. In any event, I remain delighted that the accident of birth made me privy to a way of life that now exists only in heart and memory.

Tom Wimbrow grew up in Whaleyville in the 1940s and 50s. A graduate of Salisbury State Teachers College (now Salisbury University), he was an educator and administrator in the Harford County, MD, public schools. Now living in retirement in Seaford, DE, he devotes much of his time to historical pursuits, including documenting life on Delmarva during his childhood. He gives the late Dr. William H. Wroten, his college history professor, and his father, the late R. Edwin Wimbrow, credit for his interest in and love of all things historical.

The Honorable Teagle Townsend of Snow Hill

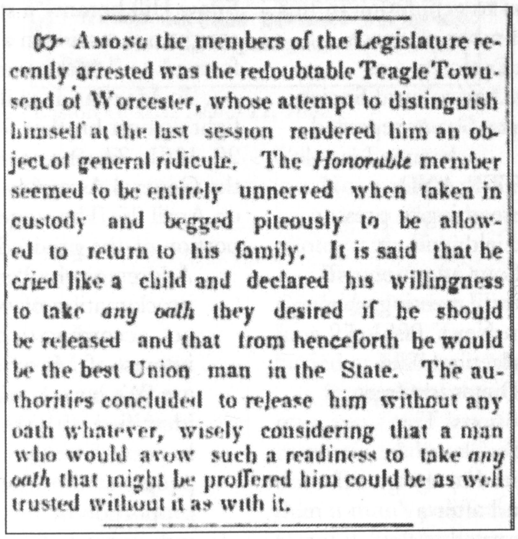
By Sue Ellen Robinson

I first came across Teagle Townsend almost 35 years ago while working on Townsend family history. Unlike many of my ancestors, there was much written about Teagle, providing clues from the past with which to create a snapshot of his life. Over the years, I put those pieces together like a favorite puzzle, and this article is the cumulative result of years of research. Since 2011 was the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, I felt this was a perfect time to present this small snapshot of the life of the Honorable Teagle Townsend of Snow Hill.

I've always been fascinated by the ever-evolving treatment of historical facts. As a genealogist I have more of an appreciation for the fact that history is decided just as much in the hearts and minds of everyday people as it is by politicians and military leaders. This is a story of how one Eastern Shore man responded to an American crisis as it unfolded into Civil War. In 1861, Maryland was involved in a secession crisis that struck fear into the hearts of its citizens who were only a few generations removed from the Revolution and the birth of the Union itself.

Teagle Townsend was born June 27, 1800, to Levin Townsend and Ann Dorman Townsend. Worcester County Wills 1799-1803 showed that Levin Townsend provided for his son as follows: "to son (not yet Christened) to be called Teagle Townsend, lots in Snow Hill #9 & 10 at age 21." Levin's will also mentioned Teagle's siblings Nancy and Sarah.

Not much is available about Teagle's young life other than a reference to him in the Reverend James Murray's *History of Pocomoke City, Formerly New Town,* wherein he noted Teagle in Princess Anne was involved in a carriage-making partnership with Reverend William Quinn.



☞ AMONG the members of the Legislature recently arrested was the redoubtable Teagle Townsend of Worcester, whose attempt to distinguish himself at the last session rendered him an object of general ridicule. The *Honorable* member seemed to be entirely unnerved when taken in custody and begged piteously to be allowed to return to his family. It is said that he cried like a child and declared his willingness to take *any oath* they desired if he should be released and that from henceforth be would be the best Union man in the State. The authorities concluded to release him without any oath whatever, wisely considering that a man who would avow such a readiness to take *any oath* that might be proffered him could be as well trusted without it as with it.

Easton Gazette *May 28, 1861*

On December 21, 1830, Teagle married Elizabeth Selby Bevans (born November 9, 1811). Research has yielded evidence of 11 children from that marriage, including an infant who died shortly after birth. Issue of Elizabeth and Teagle Townsend are: Edwin Rowland Townsend, born October 16, 1831; Mary Grace Townsend, born February 28, 1834; Priscilla Ann Townsend, born April 23, 1836; Irving Spence Townsend, born April 8, 1838; Amanda Townsend, born September 19, 1841; Thomas T. Townsend, born 1842; Francis J. Selby Townsend, born May 30, 1847; Infant Townsend, born and died 1849; Samuel H. Townsend, born September 21, 1850; John Glenn Townsend, born May 25, 1853; and Elizabeth Florence Townsend, born 1855. There is a discrepancy between the 1850 and 1870 census: one shows Thomas T. age 8 and the other Thomas P. age 17. I have not been able to resolve this difference.

Elizabeth and Teagle lived at "Cherrystone" in Snow Hill, a home built on lots 61 and 62 with parts of other lots that included a garden and street access to Church Street. The plot was surveyed in 1793 by Worcester County surveyor Joshua Mitchell. I'm not sure why Teagle would live here and not on the lots his father left him, but the house was impressive for its time and large enough for his growing family. In recent years, it has been used as the Burbage Funeral Home.

The Maryland State Archives listed Teagle Townsend as the Worcester County representative to the State House of Delegates in 1836, 1837 and 1838 and the House Special Session in 1836. He also was listed as the Worcester County representative to the Senate in 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1860 and 1862 and Senate Special Sessions for 1841 and 1861. During his break from state politics, he served as Register of Wills for Worcester County as verified by the 1850 census.

On April 20, 1844, the *Easton Gazette* stated that Teagle Townsend was nominated at a meeting of Worcester County Whig voters as county representative to the Gubernatorial Convention to be held in Baltimore on April 30 of that year.

On a more personal note, *The Sun* paper in Baltimore ran the following on March 3, 1849: "Seriously Burnt.-Honor. Teagle Townsend, of Snow Hill, Md, had his hands and wrists horribly burned one night last week, (so. Perhaps, as to lose the free use of the left one for life,) while rescuing a servant girl, whose clothes had taken fire." This citation gives you a glimpse into the personal side of the man who made politics his life.

The Compromise of 1850 turned out to be a Pandora's box. The Whig Party saw this compromise as an invitation for the expansion of slavery. Almost every critical issue the nation faced at the time found its roots in the economic and moral issues of slavery. Within the State of Maryland there grew a sectionalism based – at least in the eyes of Eastern Shore residents on passage of legislative bills for the benefit of Western Maryland only. Much of the lower Eastern Shore had, since its founding, identified with the social structure of slave states such as Virginia.

Maryland suffered the plagues of most border states. Unionists and secessionists alike served as advocates for their cause, but the majority hoped that by some miracle war might be avoided. In the lower Eastern Shore counties of Somerset, Worcester and Dorchester, traditions and culture were almost identical to those of the southern states. However, Maryland had many freedmen, almost as many as slaves, and Northern influence was strongly felt. Although the Eastern Shore continued to vote Democratic, a strong heritage of devotion to the constitution seemed to be coming to the surface.

By the 1850s, Teagle was fully engrossed in the Whig Party. On May 21, 1852, the *Daily National Intelligencer* wrote about the Whig State Convention in Maryland as follows: "The Whig

State Convention of Maryland met at Baltimore yesterday for the purpose of appointing Delegates to the Whig National Convention, and also electors of President and Vice President of the United States. Chosen from Worcester County were Teagle Townsend, Alfred M Powell, W.I. Leonard and Thomas Timmons."

I found another mention of Teagle in the August 26, 1853, edition of *The Sun* newspaper. It stated that, "On Monday, of last week, a colored man, named Henry, belonging to the Hon. Teagle Townsend, of Worcester County, Md, was accidentally drowned." From *The Sun* newspaper edition of September 9, 1854, I learned that the Hon. Teagle Townsend had sold his house and lot in Snow Hill (the Judge Spence lot) to Wm. S. Moore, Esq. Another glimpse into his personal life came from *The Sun* newspaper on March 23, 1855, when the Hon. Teagle Townsend purchased a dwelling and two lots in Snow Hill from Dr. R.W. Williams. On October 2, 1856, the *Daily National Intelligencer* ran an article titled "Maryland State Agricultural Society." The article stated that the meeting was held in Baltimore and that Teagle Townsend from Worcester County was among the elected vice presidents of that society. The mission of the Maryland State Agricultural Society was to promote all things farm-related. The society was a valuable resource to land owners and encompassed everything from education and inspection to agricultural fairs. Land ownership was a priority passed down from generation to generation in this Townsend line, as witnessed by the large number of deeds recorded over generations. It seems that this priority was confirmed with Teagle's affiliation with the Agricultural Society.

And then on October 1, 1858, the *Easton Gazette* reported the following:

> GREAT TIMES IN OLD WORCESTER AND GREATER A COMING. – Just as were going to press last night we received the Worcester Shield, and on opening it the first thing that attracted our attention was the proceedings of the Democratic county meeting, with the heading spread out in 'Foreign News' fashion, in the following words: 'Grand Mass Meeting! The Democracy Sold! Townsend Selected Dictator! Great Rejoicing of Whiggery! Blarney Resolutions! The Shield Read Out! The Gathering of the Clans!' &c. The Shield says the 'The delegates retired to the grand jury room with CLOSED DOORS, and after a discussion of two and a half hours, returned and reported the following as the result of their arduous labors: [We hope the reader won't laugh outright.] State Senate — Hon. Teagle Townsend

The article went on to name other nominations for county offices. As I read through these old newspaper clippings, it became evident that the *Easton Gazette* was not a supporter of Senator Townsend.

In the election of 1860, Maryland was attracted to John C. Breckenridge, the extremist southern Democrat, and Bell, the moderate Southern candidate. Maryland voters almost totally rejected the Northern candidates Douglas and Lincoln. Worcester County gave Lincoln no votes. After his election, Lincoln feared Maryland's secession, and that fear turned into action that pushed many "middle of the road" Marylanders to make choices as to their loyalty as Lincoln dispatched Union troops to Maryland in order to keep Washington from being cut-off from the North.

Maryland was in a state of unrest at this time. Secession was being argued in back rooms and newspaper editorials. The Honorable Teagle Townsend had strong feelings as well. He believed that the Union was voluntary and that states should be permitted to leave if they so desired. Headed by the Honorable Teagle Townsend, a group of "States Rights" men in Snow Hill favored recognition of the Confederacy. During this critical period in Maryland's history, Governor Thomas H. Hicks, like many Marylanders, hoped that lines would not have to be drawn and sides taken. In his desire to keep the state calm, he would not bring the legislature together to vote on this question of secession until after Union troops had already taken over Annapolis.

This inaction caused inflammatory interaction between Senator Townsend and Governor Hicks. When the state legislature finally convened in Frederick, MD, many Worcester County residents declared total impartiality should war arise. When Union Brigadier General Benjamin Butler ordered the seizure of arms in Worcester County, Senator Teagle Townsend flew into a rage and promised bodily harm to Governor Hicks for his failure to protect the rights of Marylanders. Neutrality now lost its attraction on the Eastern Shore, and family after family had to choose sides. Many Worcester County residents felt strong ties to their neighbors in Virginia, and Teagle's home in Snow Hill became a stop for southbound Marylanders who sought out service in a Confederate unit of Marylanders being formed near Manassas, VA.

In Maryland, as in other border states, often brother would fight against brother for what he believed true and just. On April 29, 1861, *The Sun* newspaper ran news of the Special Session of the General Assembly of Maryland that convened in Frederick on April 26. The stage was set for Maryland's secession vote. A portion of the proceedings reads:

> Address to the People of Maryland: Under the proclamation of your Governor we have assembled to act, according to our best judgments for the true interest of Maryland … We are Marylanders, as you are. We have families as you have. Our interests are identified with yours. Our duty, our wishes and our hopes will be to legislate for the true interests of all the people of our State. We cannot but know that a large proportion of the citizens of Maryland have been induced to believe that there is a probability that our deliberations may result in the passage of some measure committing this State to secession. It is, therefore, our duty to declare that all such fears are without just foundation. We know that we have no constitutional authority to take such action. You need not fear that there is a possibility that we will do so.

The address concluded by saying, almost by way of apology:

> We know that the present crisis has deranged the usual current of business operation in every department … if results do not realize our hopes and anticipations, we ask that you will, at least, extend to us the charity of believing that the failure has occurred from lack of ability, not of will.

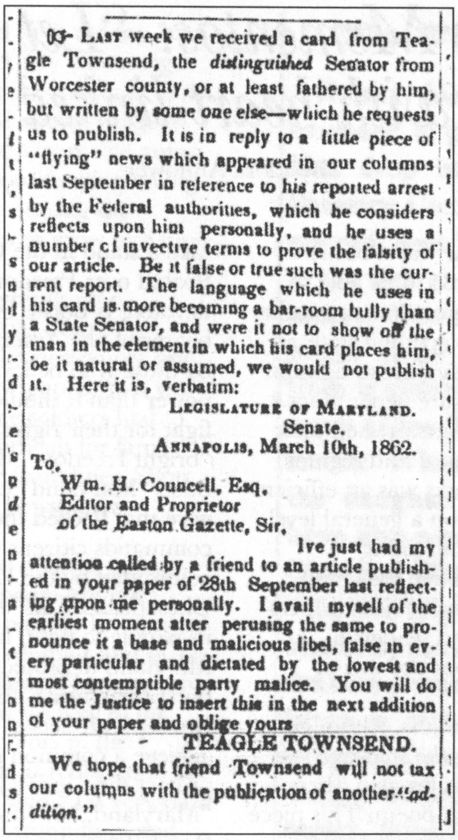
The address was signed by 18 Maryland representatives, including Teagle Townsend.

Eventually Senator Townsend's southern sympathies caught up with him. Under close surveillance for an extended period of time, he was arrested with Governor Hick's approval. By September 28, 1861, the *Easton Gazette* ran a news article on Teagle as follows:

> Among the members of the Legislature recently arrested was the redoubtable Teagle Townsend of Worcester, whose attempt to distinguish himself at the last session rendered him an object of general ridicule. The Honorable member seemed to be entirely unnerved when taken in custody and begged piteously to be allowed to return to his family. It is said that he cried like a child and declared his willingness to take any oath they desired if he should be released and that from henceforth he would be the best Union man in the State. The authorities concluded to release him without any oath whatever, wisely considering that a man who would avow such readiness to take any oath that might be proffered him could be as well trusted without it as with it."

Several months later, on March 22, 1862, the *Easton Gazette* followed with this article:

> Last week we received a card from Teagle Townsend, the distinguished Senator from Worcester County, or at least fathered by him, but written by someone else—which he requests us to publish. It is in reply to a little piece of "flying" news which appears in our columns last September in reference to his reported arrest by the Federal authorities, which he considers reflects upon him personally, and he used a number of invective terms to prove the falsity of our article. Be it false or true such was the current report. The language which he used in his card is more becoming a bar-room bully than a State Senator, and were it not to show off the man in the element which his card places him, be it natural or assumed, we would not publish it. Here it is, verbatim:
>
> Legislature of Maryland
> Senate
> Annapolis, March 10, 1862
> To. Wm. H. Councell, Esq.
> Editor and Proprietor
> Of the Easton Gazette,
> Sir,
>
> I've just had my attention called by a friend to an article published in your paper of 28th September last reflecting upon me personally. I avail myself of the earliest moment after perusing the same to pronounce it a base and malicious libel, false in every particular and dictated by the lowest and most contemptible part malice. You will do me the Justice to insert this in the next addition of your paper and oblige yours
>
> TEAGLE TOWNSEND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TEAGLE TOWNSEND.

We hope that friend Townsend will not tax our columns with the publication of another "*addition.*"

Easton Gazette *March 22, 1862*

> We hope that friend Townsend will not tax our columns with the publication of another addition.

From this interchange it would seem clear the *Easton Gazette* and Teagle Townsend were at odds both politically and personally. Also the format and spelling of newspaper articles are verbatim, leaving one to wonder if the errors were made by the paper or the writer of the text.

It was not until 1866, just three years before his death, that there was another reference to Teagle Townsend, this in the *Annapolis Gazette* of October 11. At that time, he was interested in running for Comptroller. The Democrats of Maryland had not nominated him, so he announced himself as an Independent Democratic candidate. According to the article, he was well-known in the state for his life-long public service and experience that would allow him to discharge the duties of office. He ran against three other candidates. And by the following week, the same paper reported that he had addressed the Democrats of Worcester County and announced himself as a candidate for State Comptroller. At that time, he solicited the Democratic vote and declared himself superior to the other Worcester nominee, Colonel Leonard.

Not much is printed about Teagle Townsend after that. I have not, to date, been able to locate an obituary or a photograph of him.

Teagle died October 23, 1869, on board the steamer *Cambridge*, leaving Elizabeth widowed until she passed away on June 27, 1886. Teagle, Elizabeth and several of their children are buried at Makemie Memorial Churchyard in Snow Hill, MD.

It appeared that the Honorable Teagle Townsend was a man you either loved or hated according to your political convictions. But somehow, I'm sure there was more to it than that. Historiographers make their conclusions based on more than a man's political beliefs. A well-rounded picture can only be found if his economic, social and religious or moral beliefs are added. Since I don't have a clear view of all the aspects of the man, I can only make the following conclusions: It appears that he was a man of conviction who adamantly supported his beliefs, right or wrong, with action to the best of his ability as evidenced by the fact that his constituents repeatedly elected him. I view that as an admirable trait, not seen often enough; his opponents could view him as stubborn, pigheaded or unyielding. Either way, the prism though which we view the scattered pieces of a man's life is clouded by over 150 years of history, making it impossible to see all aspects of it clearly. Teagle Townsend lived through the war along with his constituents in Worcester County. It would be interesting to know what his personal observations were, but those private thoughts followed him to his grave.

Sue Ellen Robinson, a long-time supporter of the Nabb Center, has contributed several articles to the *Shoreline* based on her family history research.

Confederate Mementos: "Let us march to the fight with heart linked to heart"

By Elora Amtower

For the Confederate soldier, the Civil War was a battle for independence. White Southerners wanted to be able to truly govern themselves via state-based governments rather than having a powerful federal government overruling state authority. White Southern men thought it their duty to fight for their beliefs and to protect those beliefs for future generations.

One way in which white Southern citizens expressed their patriotism was through publishing poetry in local and regional journals and newspapers. Publishing short works was an efficient and convenient way to communicate not just on a general level, but also in an intimate setting. A scrapbook containing Confederate poems, housed at the Nabb Research Center, contains poems from several different states and various papers and journals. These pieces gave the writers and readers a medium in which to express their feelings about the war or about themselves and their loved ones.

Some poems were written for broad audiences. Although most pieces were only published in one paper, the message was intended for all to read. "Our Flag" by Robert Josselyn (there is no date provided with this clipping) is one such poem. This piece is a dedication to the Southern colors and their beauty and meaning in every Southern heart. The poem justifies the need for war because the differing beliefs between the North and the South indicate that a new order is needed, thus with southern secession, "[a] new Republic springs aloft, from fratricidal strife, on Victory's buoyant wings." These lines express the betrayal the South felt by the North, and that the author of this poem, who seems to speak for the South, sees the Civil War as brother fighting brother. However, in order to keep pride and hold fast in beliefs, this "fratricidal" war is deemed necessary.

Other poems such as "The Sword of Robert Lee" (there is no date provided with this clipping) romanticize the idea of war. This piece idealizes General Lee as a romantic hero before whom soldiers "knelt to swear, that where the sword led they would dare to follow and to die." The men in the poem believe they are led by a man wielding the purest sword, which is, even in his death, "shrouded now in its sheath again! It sleeps the sleep of our noble slain, defeated, yet without stain, proudly and peacefully." Like "Our Flag," "The Sword of Robert Lee" serves a similar purpose – to keep Southern morale up and to reestablish the dignity lost when General Lee was defeated. Both poems are a form of political advertisement that created a sense of pride in the Confederate reader.

Poems addressing state pride had similar agendas to those of the more general Confederacy poems. These state poems, however, embrace the white Southern belief of each state functioning individually while still having goals similar to its neighbors. In this scrapbook, there are poems written to Virginia and Maryland, and although each poem addresses a particular state, the message for each state is very similar. "A War Song for Virginia," as indicated by the title, encourages Virginians to fight for their freedom. The speaker of the poem urges Virginians to take a stand in the Civil War because "the banner which once floated over Freedom's native land – Flag, to which you are devoted, Is borne by a tyrant's band." President Lincoln, the bearer of the American flag at the time, was considered a tyrant by those who believed that the federal government had more power than it should. The poem calls on Virginians to stand and fight for their rights and for their state because their beliefs are a "bright Freedom" that "points the way." Likewise, the poem titled "Maryland" calls on Marylanders to "Avenge the patriotic gore that flecked the streets of Baltimore." This poem commands citizens to fight to protect and avenge wrongs committed by the Union that range from the Potomac to the Chesapeake. Like "A War Song for Virginia," "Maryland" urges its people to fight, but it is also a cry from the people for Maryland to protect them as in the line reading, "Dear Mother, burst the tyrant's chain, Maryland!" While both poems address two separate sets of people, they both call upon their citizens to achieve a common goal, thus unifying Southerners to fight to protect their individual homes and the South in general. "Maryland, My Maryland" written in 1861 by James Ryder Randall, was later set to the tune of "O Tannenbaum" and became the state song of Maryland in 1939.

On the other hand, some poems were not just political statements like those above, but were also editorial commentaries on the war and its progression. The poem "Dixie Land," published in Newman, GA, in May 1861, is a parody of the well-known song and poem "Dixie's Land" by Daniel Decatur Emmett. The original poem, which was also written during the Civil War, commended the South for its resources, namely food and agriculture, and for its friendly hospitality. This parody, however, unveils the truth of the war and strips away the joyous façade that the original poem wears. This truth is stated plainly in lines like "to save our land the oppressors scorning" and "with war and bloodshed they'll distress us."

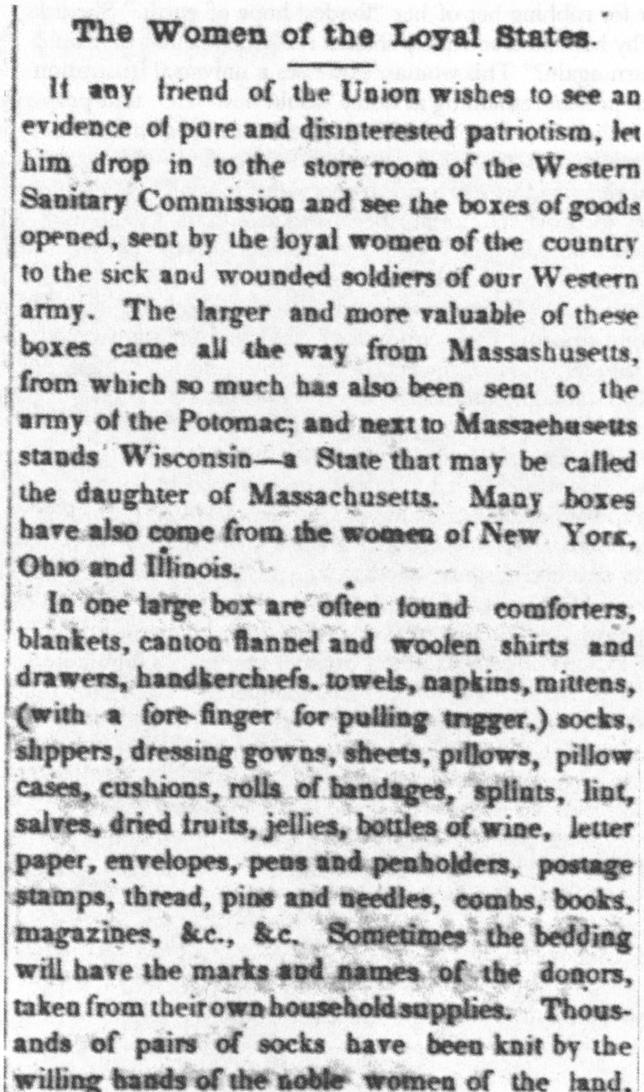
The poems published during the Civil War were not confined to romanticized versions of the war and the South; these published pieces were also a way to freely express one's feelings, concerns and observations of the war. The poem "Epitaph for a Great Captain," for instance, expresses the hostility toward Winfield Scott "Who turned the sword his mother gave [him] against that mother's breast." The writer of this poem is so outraged that Scott, the Virginia-born commanding general of the U.S. Army, would turn on his own people that he calls Scott a snake in writing, "suffocating them the way an anaconda defeats its prey."

Poetry in the Civil War expressed a wide range of emotions and opinions toward the war. "Things that I don't like to see," by Uyi Olee of North Carolina, has a more remorseful tone than "Dixie Land" and "Epitaph." The poem is written from the perspective of an observer who is heartbroken at the horrific sights seen in the war. The writer is primarily against boys fighting in the war. Olee illustrates the pictures of these boys in just a few lines, "A youth with his hat smashed in at the top, and his chin all covered with juvenile crop" and "A boy with a cigar stuck in his mouth." The boys in the poem are probably in their early pubescent years because they are not old enough to grow full beards on their chins, yet they are smoking cigars and going off to war. Olee's poem expresses concern about treating young boys as if they are men; he seems to advocate ceasing the recruitment of youths. He does not want them to grow into men one day and then die the next.

Poems also were used as a means of communication between family members. Men in the war would utilize the newspapers to write to their families of their homesickness, and their loved ones would also respond in the newspapers as it was the most reliable means to communicate. Since soldiers had to move constantly from camp to camp, it was difficult for family and friends to write to their loved ones on the front lines. Short poems could be published in easily accessible newspapers and journals.

Unfortunately, not all these soldiers would make it home. B.C. Walker (his position and the date of his poem are not printed with the clipping) wrote to his family, namely his mother and possibly a wife or sister, of his misery and despair and of his doubt of ever returning home. His piece is titled "The last words of B.C. Walker, who died by Jackson, Miss, on his way to his home in Caswell County, N.C." Walker uses colors in the beginning to describe his feelings and how that is reflected in his environment. He writes "crimson is the west" and "Tis very dark around me" to illustrate his blood-saturated surroundings and the recurrent image of death that surrounds him constantly. His poem is one last feeble cry for help out of what he perceives as an inevitable end. Walker pleads "Oh! take me to my home once more" and nostalgically remembers his mother's gentle gaze writing, "Must I behold my mother's smiles upon her child no more?" He gives into his despair, stating, "Death's hand is on my heart Hattie, good bye – a last good bye." Walker expresses the hopelessness that was probably felt by many soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Seeing only red and black, blood and death, it is easy to understand why. "My Brother" by G.F.W. similarly addresses these feelings of loss and despair. It is unclear whether this "brother" is the writer's biological brother or simply another soldier in battle. Either way, it clearly illustrates the strong fraternal bonds the Southerners shared. This piece expresses the familial bonds that were prominent in the South, the longing of the writer to be able to attend the deceased's grave and the injustice of not being able to bring the honored dead home to rest. G.F.W. describes the loneliness of the dead brother, stating that he is "clinging with love's embrace to the cold earth" with "no willows weeping; no loved watch keeping," and that "no loving hand may plant sweet roses there." This poem applies to every family who lost a son, a brother, an uncle, a father or a friend. Because these bodies "[sleep] beneath the stranger's soil," even "when summer comes" and "birds will sing and flowers will bloom" they will "still be alone." One of the greatest fears of every Southerner on the home front was not being able to mourn properly over the beloved deceased if their bodies did not come home for their final rest.

"Thoughts on the Dear Departed" is a home-front response to the same situation described in "My Brother." This poem is about a woman whose love dies at war, and her wish that she could have gone with him. She expresses her anger toward the



The Women of the Loyal States.

If any friend of the Union wishes to see an evidence of pure and disinterested patriotism, let him drop in to the store room of the Western Sanitary Commission and see the boxes of goods opened, sent by the loyal women of the country to the sick and wounded soldiers of our Western army. The larger and more valuable of these boxes came all the way from Massashusetts, from which so much has also been sent to the army of the Potomac; and next to Massachusetts stands Wisconsin—a State that may be called the daughter of Massachusetts. Many boxes have also come from the women of New York, Ohio and Illinois.

In one large box are often found comforters, blankets, canton flannel and woolen shirts and drawers, handkerchiefs, towels, napkins, mittens, (with a fore-finger for pulling trigger,) socks, slippers, dressing gowns, sheets, pillows, pillow cases, cushions, rolls of bandages, splints, lint, salves, dried fruits, jellies, bottles of wine, letter paper, envelopes, pens and penholders, postage stamps, thread, pins and needles, combs, books, magazines, &c., &c. Sometimes the bedding will have the marks and names of the donors, taken from their own household supplies. Thousands of pairs of socks have been knit by the willing hands of the noble women of the land, thinking, as they passed the busy hours, of their fathers and sons and brothers in the army, and sending after them prayers and blessings that they may be loyal, bold and true in their country's service, and restore it to its rightful supremacy and power.

Many of the boxes contain letters, accompanying the donations, breathing the true spirit of patriotism. From one of these we are permitted to make the following extract. After naming the contents of the box, the writer says:

"Trusting that these things may be a comfort to the poor soldiers who have nobly and generously risked their lives for us and our posterity, I send them, that they may know that Massachusetts women think with kindness upon them, *so far away*, even as upon our own in the hospitals at Washington. God bless the poor soldiers, and bless our country, and give us peace in His own good time."

Article in Easton Gazette February 1862 war for robbing her of her "fondest hope of earth." She asks, "Why hast thou so rudely shaken those hopes that he would return again?" This woman expresses a universal frustration each person remaining at home would have felt – that perpetual hope that their man would be the one returning with victory, not "musing, sadly musing, of the days forever fled – thinking of the dear departed who are numbered with the dead." These lines show the grief felt not just because a loved one is dead, but because in reality, he is only one tally-mark in the body count to the cause, only a number stripped of his identity and importance. "Thoughts on the Dear Departed," however, is not simply a poem of frustration and grief, but also a prayer of hope. The writer, at the end of the piece, asks God to gift her with the fond memories she has of her loved one and to help her continue living by remembering those happier times.

This idea of prayer was also very important for the soldiers, families and friends left at home. Religion played an important role in the South, especially during the Civil War. Jason Philips, in his book *In Diehard Rebels: The Confederate Culture of Invincibility*, states that Christianity was faithfully practiced during the war for two specific reasons: it was "an explanatory system to make sense of the war and a code of behavior to guide them past the temptations of camp and the perils of combat." Ultimately, Christianity, aside from reassuring the Confederate Army that God was on its side, also gave families hope that their loved ones would return – or at least rest in peace and honor, giving them the strength to heal from their losses. "I am Lonely Mother" by A.L.B. from Cresent Rifles (Crescent Regiment Louisiana Infantry) is a poem from a son to his mother describing how sad and lost he feels, and that dread that he might not return whole to her arms again. He asks a favor of his mother: "Then, remember me to Him above, 'Whom Christians serve with joy,' and conjure Him, on bended knees, have mercy on your boy." He asks his mother to pray for him that he may return safely home. This plea illustrates how difficult it is for soldiers to keep their faith in war because they feel forsaken as their fellow troops fall dead around them. The destruction of the war made the soldiers question whether God was protecting them, and so poems like "I am Lonely Mother" illustrate that struggle and desire to keep that necessary faith.

Likewise, those at home also had to ask God for help with their own trials. In "A Cloud is on my Heart," the writer asks God's help to let go of a loved one. The writer states, "You cannot think how sobbingly, I breathe YOUR NAME in prayer, and pray that God will teach me how unmurmuring to resign that inmost sympathy of soul I've claimed so long as mine." The writer asks for the strength to let go the soul, or person, he or she has regarded as a possession for so long. These few lines illustrate the struggle of those on the home front to let go of those who have died in the war and release their spirits to heaven. This poem brings the idea of prayer in the war full circle. On the one hand, "I am Lonely Mother" is a plea to live and return home, while "A Cloud is on my Heart" is a prayer asking God not to let the loved one stay, but to take him to heaven where he can never feel the pain of the world again.

Publishing these poems was part of an important process of acceptance and healing for those Confederate families. By writing observations, feelings and prayers, these families and individuals were able to admit their fears of the war and also unify the Confederate forces. Poems are raw forms of human emotion and recordings of events in personal lives and in historical moments. These poems not only illustrate the opinions and feelings of the people who wrote them, but they also are preserved moments in the Civil War. They illuminate the effects of the war on families and how both soldiers and their loved ones coped with the constant anxiety and loss.

While a student at Salisbury University majoring in English, Elora Amtower wrote several articles for the Shoreline based on the Nabb Center's archival collections.

South Dorchester Folk Museum Collection

The South Dorchester Folk Museum (SDFM) in Church Creek, MD, working with the Dorchester County Historical Society, arranges and sponsors programs on the traditions and the history of the southern part of Dorchester County. Monthly programs are held at Robbins Heritage Center, Dorchester County Historical Society, Greenway Drive at Crusader Road in Cambridge. The programs are filmed and put onto DVDs. These recordings capture the essence of the Eastern Shore with topics such as musical traditions, hunting and fishing traditions, and tales of life on islands and towns that are gone or are slowly fading away. Some time ago, in order to preserve this programming for future generations, the SDFM generously donated more than 80 DVDs of its programs to the Nabb Center. Pat Neild continues to keep the collection at Nabb up to date by providing the newer offerings to the Center.

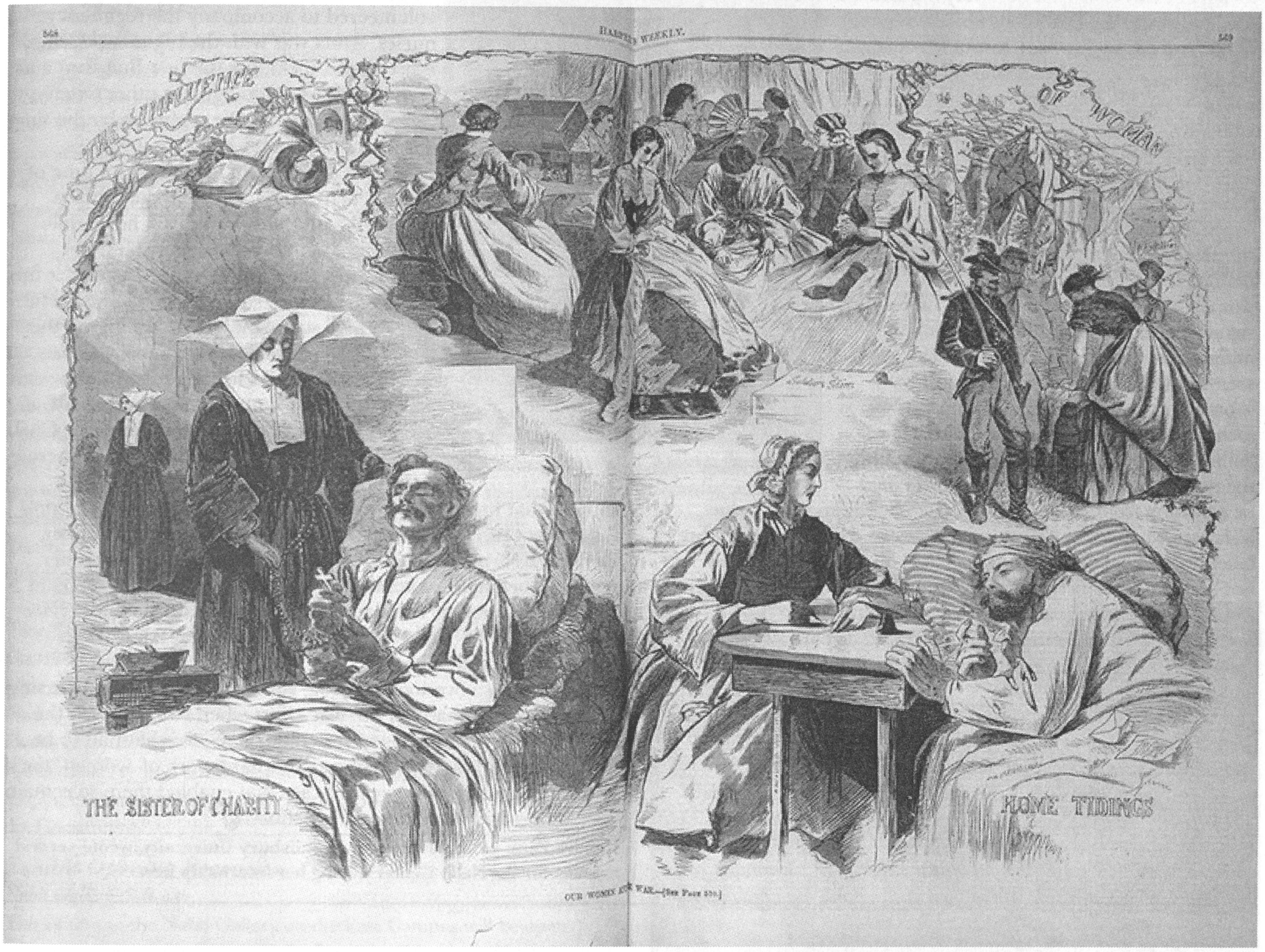
A small sample of past programs in the collection includes the following presenters and titles:

Fitzhugh, Chief Sewell; Indian Civilization of Dorchester County
Bittner, Frank; Storm of 33
Dean, Eddie; The Joy of Collecting & Carving
Wright, Hubert, Hurricane Isabel
Marshall, Deanna; The Town of Woolford
Brannock, Earl; Chesapeake Bay Oyster Wars & Naval History
Handly, Mary; Annie Oakley
Spicer, Bill; Timber Industry of Old Dorchester
Burton, R. Lee; Dorchester Canneries
Roth, Hal; History of Elliott Island

The public is always invited to attend the SDFM meetings. If you would like to participate or would like to purchase your own copy of a past program, visit the website of the South Dorchester Folk Museum at www.sdfmuseum.net or contact John S. "Pat" Neild at 410-228-6175 or the Dorchester County Historical Society at 410-228-7953.

Women of the Civil War

By Kendra Pain



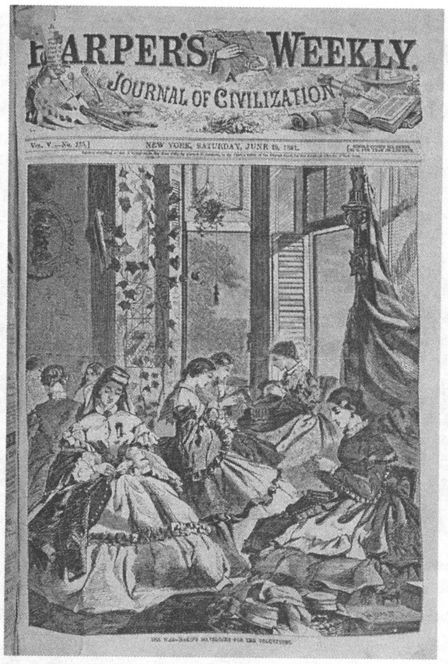
Harpers Weekly June 29, 1861

During the American Civil War, hundreds of thousands of men enlisted in both the Union and Confederate armies. Driven by a sense of honor, duty and patriotism, these men dedicated themselves to the cause in which they believed. As fathers, husbands, uncles and sons marched off to war, they left behind their families and loved ones; many of those left behind were women who could not fight for the country they loved. Looking back, it is not easy to see what contributions those women made toward the war effort. Fascinating soldiers and mesmerizing battles overshadow most of the other events of the time period. Looking through articles of *The Easton Gazette*, a pro-Union newspaper from the early 1860s, however, allowed me to form a better idea of the contributions made by women of that day. These stories and articles expose the fact that being a soldier was not the only worthwhile job available and shed light on the efforts and contributions of women to one of the most important wars in our country's history.

One story that stood out to me was a small piece of fiction published in September, 1863 titled "The Little Soldier," the story of a family whose father decided to enlist in the army because it would be dishonorable to stay behind in the comfort and safety of his home while his neighbors went off to defend the nation. His family encouraged him to go "and fight for the flag of freedom," so he left the farm in the care of his wife and young sons. The boys grew crops to feed the family and earn money, while their mother prayed for the preservation of the Union and the safe return of the father. The story concluded with a gentleman seeing the wonderful state of the farm and the youngest son telling him that everyone did their part: "Father's fighting, [I'm] digging, and mother's praying." The gentleman declared that the attitude and efforts of the family were the kind of "patriotism that will bring the country out of her distress."

Though this is a fictional story, it is very telling about the mindset and expectations of people living in the U.S. during the

Civil War. While men went off to fight, women were needed to care for the children and pray for salvation and success. The sign of a good American family was one that did its part to carry on with everyday life and aid the country to the best of its ability. Staying home and asking God for assistance against the rebel enemy are not as interesting as going South to confront the men who were jeopardizing the nation, but in a time when men felt it was their moral and Christian duty to defend the free land, taking care of house and home and the family farm was considered an important and necessary job.



Harper's Weekly September 6, 1862

As essential as praying was during this period, it was not the most significant way women exerted their influence. A more significant example of women taking the initiative and making a difference can be seen in the February 1862 article "The Women of the Loyal States." This article focused on ladies in Maryland who were gathering donations from women throughout the northern states. These donations could be anything from clothing, to food, to books and magazines. Volunteers would load supplies into boxes that would then be taken to soldiers on the front line. Although those women could not become soldiers (though a few actually did), they were still finding a way to help and "breathing the true spirit of patriotism." These women were described as patriots even though they never saw battle or risked their lives for their country. Through their actions, men were "inspired to a nobler courage and higher devotion to their country's preservation and welfare," showing that it takes people working outside the spotlight to maintain an army.

The article "An American Heroine," published on February 23, 1863, in *The Easton Gazette*, illustrates the importance of women's role as nurses. The author gave credit to 23 year-old Anna Etheridge for her bravery and patriotism. Originally from Minnesota, Anna was visiting friends in Detroit when a Colonel Richardson was raising the 2nd Michigan Volunteers that would later become part of the Army of the Potomac. Anna and 19 other females volunteered to accompany the regiment as nurses. Anna was with the regiment during every battle, including the first Bull Run and Fredericksburg. Although the other women were no longer with the regiment by the time this article was published, Anna was determined to remain for the entire time of the regiment's service. While the soldiers fought in battle, she would "fill her saddle bags with lint and bandages, mount her horse, and gallop to the front, pass under fire, and, regardless of shot and shell, engage in the work of staunching and binding up the wounds." The article related how she also cooked and cleaned for soldiers at times when she was not needed as a medic. Of all the articles I read on the women of the Civil War, this is, without a doubt, the most heroic story of women assisting in the war. She showed that bravery and honor are found in many occupations that do not involve fighting. Although Anna was not a soldier, General Kearny, the commander of the brigade to which her regiment belonged, commissioned her as a regimental sergeant "in consideration of her dauntless courage and valuable service in saving the lives of his men." It was clear that 23-year-old Anna made a difference.

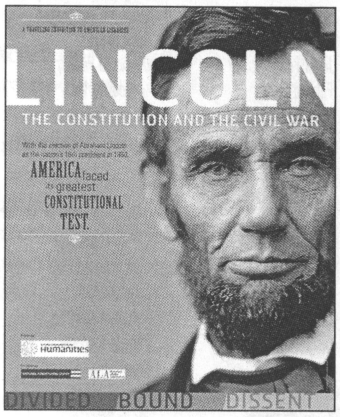
It is easy to overlook praying, gathering supplies and nursing as contributions made in the war effort when compared to the actions of the soldiers; however, these were jobs that had to be done. Through the contributions and hard work of women, the soldiers received assistance and care that enabled them to remain courageous and continue in their efforts.

Kendra Pain, an English major at Salisbury University, wrote several articles for the Nabb Center during her internship here.

Upcoming Events and Exhibits

Lincoln and the Constitution - Exhibit
January 23-March 4
Mon, Wed., Fri., 1-4 p.m.
Nabb Gallery

"Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War" offers a fresh and innovative perspective on Abraham Lincoln that focuses on his struggle to meet the political and constitutional challenges of the Civil War. The exhibition explores how Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war – the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties. Visitors will leave the exhibition with a more complete understanding of Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation's gravest constitutional crisis. This exhibit is sponsored by the American Library Association Public Programs Office and the National Constitution Center and funded a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.


LINCOLN
THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CIVIL WAR
AMERICA faced its greatest CONSTITUTIONAL TEST.
Humanities
ALA
DIVIDED
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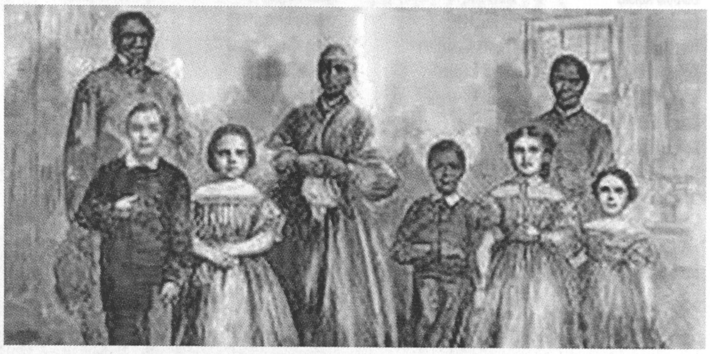
DISSENT

The "Right Spirit": Lincoln, Loyalty and Liberties on the Eastern Shore, 1861-1865
Opening Lecture for Exhibit
Friday, January 23
Perdue Hall, Bennett Family Auditorium, 6 p.m.

Kellee Blake, retired director of the National Archives Mid-Atlantic Region in Philadelphia, gives the opening lecture for the "Lincoln and the Constitution" exhibit.

Exhibit Opening Reception
Nabb Gallery, 7-9 p.m.

The exhibit at the Nabb Gallery on the East Campus will be open 7-9 p.m. following the lecture. Refreshments will be served.



Slave and Free on Virginia's Eastern Shore: From the Revolution to the Civil War - Lecture
Rev. Kirk Mariner
Thursday, February 19
Holloway Hall, Great Hall, 7 p.m.

Eventide in Whitehaven - Annual Fundraising Event
Saturday, May 2
Bolton, Whitehaven, MD
Ticket price: $75
Tickets will be available in early spring 2015.

Volunteer Corner

Thank you to our volunteers, who collectively provide the Nabb Center with critical support including scanning, curating, docenting, transcribing, data-entry, researching and more. Without their dedication and hard work, much of what we do would not be possible.

Pictured here is Dr. Ray Thompson introducing some of the staff and volunteers to the fall exhibits at the Nabb Center.

Community volunteers include Joe Ballou, Jefferson Boyer, Jane Burt, Bill Collison, Aleta Davis, Kiara Doughty, Ruth Epstein, Cathy Hudson, Marvia Perreault, Nancy Robertson, Mary Starnes, Jan Taylor, Barbara Welsh, Barbara Weiss and Jane West. SU student volunteers include Felicia DePena and Juliann McNelia.

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- Dick Yantis
- Dorothy Yeatman

Naming Opportunities at the Nabb Research Center in the Patricia Guerrieri Academic Commons

Would you like to honor a loved one or someone who has meant a great deal to you? Here is your opportunity! While the Guerrieri family has generously pledged $8 million to name the Academic Commons after the late Patricia A. Guerrieri, there are many spaces within this wonderful building that could be named.

The Guerrieri Academic Commons will be the hub of academic life on the SU campus, serving faculty and students in all disciplines. Located in the heart of the campus, this state-of-the-art building will be home to academic events, instruction, student presentations, digital scholarship, outreach programs, study, reflection, research, individual growth and academic enrichment.

Part of University Libraries, the Nabb Center will be moving into the Academic Commons building when it is completed in August 2016. With nearly triple the space in the Academic Commons and its central campus location, its collections, reading room, classroom, archaeology lab, high-tech archival storage and rotating and permanent exhibit areas will take scholarship, field study and the pleasures of history to a whole new level.

Below is a list of spaces available with the associated donation levels.

For more information, please contact Jason Curtin, assistant vice president for development and alumni relations, at 410-543-6176 or jecurtin@salisbury.edu.

Classroom $100,000
This space provides the Nabb Center with its first-ever dedicated classroom. With the move to the center of campus, the Nabb Center is expected to draw even more classes than it already does. This flexible classroom space allows for classes to use archival material, books or artifacts in studying Delmarva's history and culture, while also providing security for the collections.

Microform Room $75,000
This space provides approximately 15 microform readers and a printer to allow genealogists, local historians, students and others to take advantage of the Nabb Center's extensive microform collections.

Permanent Exhibit Area $75,000
This high-visibility area is just off the atrium and serves as the entrance to the Nabb Center. The exhibit will be open whenever the Academic Commons is open, even when the Nabb Center itself is closed. The Smithsonian-quality exhibit cases will highlight the Nabb Center's document and artifact collections. The exhibit will have several sections, including a large display recreating home life and sections on wars, agriculture and occupations, and family history. The exhibit is meant to make people aware of the types of resources the Nabb Center has and inspire them to come in and do their own research.

Temporary Exhibit Area $75,000
The temporary exhibit area is just off the permanent exhibit area. It will provide a very flexible space for exhibits featuring the Nabb Center's collections and also could host traveling exhibits. Many of the exhibits are expected to be curated by Salisbury University students working with the Library's exhibits curators; the space is intended to be something of an "exhibit lab" for SU students and classes.

Book Collection Shelving Area $50,000
This room will provide easily accessible shelving for some of the Nabb Center's extensive collection of local history and genealogy books as well as the Library's special collection books.

Manuscript & Artifact Storage Area (2) **. $50,000**
These two state-of-the-art storage areas, one for archives and one for artifacts, provide excellent climate control and security for the Nabb Center and the Library's collections of rare or unique materials. The high-quality shelving will allow us to properly store all types of materials.

Digitization & Processing Center $30,000
This space consists of three related workspaces to handle the processing of all types of materials. One room is dedicated to digitization equipment that will allow us to document collections and digitize some materials for online access. One room will focus on archival processing, while the other will be for general processing and work activities, including exhibit production.

Conference Room $15,000
This conference room within the Nabb Center will be used for hosting visits by smaller classes and meetings of smaller groups related to the Nabb Center's mission. It has smart classroom technology, such as projection and a pan-tilt-zoom camera.

Director's Office $15,000
This office space puts the director in an ideal location to oversee the Nabb Center's operations. Situated near the Nabb Center's Classroom and Conference Room, it looks out on the Reading Room. To the west, it looks out on Red Square.

Archaeology Lab $10,000
This fourth-floor space will provide SU's archaeology faculty and students with their first real laboratory space. It provides ample storage and workspace as well as ventilation, important when cleaning archaeological objects.

Staff Offices (6) **. $10,000**
The comfortable staff offices for the Nabb Center are situated around the outside of the Reading Room in appropriate locations. The education and outreach coordinator and the administrative assistant have offices near the director's and the Conference Room and Classroom, while the other staff offices are located between the Reading Room and the processing and work areas, allowing staff to oversee those activities.

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY

Nabb Research Center
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801

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